

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, September 25, 2006
Volume 42—Number 38
Pages 1625–1662

Contents

Addresses and Remarks

- See also* Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Florida
Reception for congressional candidate Gus Bilirakis in Tampa—1641
Reception for gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist and the Republican Party of Florida in Orlando—1647
Senate action on the “Military Commissions Act of 2006” in Orlando—1646
New York City
Luncheon hosted by United Nations Secretary-General Annan—1637
United Nations General Assembly—1633
White House Conference on Global Literacy—1629
Radio address—1626

Communications to Congress

- Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding Office, letter transmitting budget amendments—1641

Communications to Congress—Continued

- Terrorism, message on continuation of national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support—1653

Communications to Federal Agencies

- Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2007, memorandum—1627

Interviews With the News Media

- Exchange with reporters in New York City—1632
News conference with President Musharraf of Pakistan, September 22—1653

Letters and Messages

- Rosh Hashanah, 5767, message—1651

(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is also available on the Internet on the GPO Access service at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/index.html>.

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Contents—Continued

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

- France, President Chirac—1632
- Iraq, President Talabani—1638
- Malaysia, Prime Minister Abdullah—1632
- Pakistan, President Musharraf—1653
- Palestinian Authority, President Abbas—1639
- United Nations, Secretary-General Annan—1637

Notices

- Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism—1652

Proclamations

- Gold Star Mother's Day—1640
- Literacy Day—1625
- National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week—1651
- National Farm Safety and Health Week—1625

Statements by the President

- Creation of the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue—1640
- Senate action on the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement—1639
- Senate confirmation
 - Alice S. Fisher to be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice—1639
 - Kenneth Wainstein to be Assistant Attorney General for National Security at the Department of Justice—1658

Supplementary Materials

- Acts approved by the President—1662
- Checklist of White House press releases—1661
- Digest of other White House announcements—1658
- Nominations submitted to the Senate—1660

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for private use, \$300

PRESORTED STANDARD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
GPO
PERMIT NO. G-26

Week Ending Friday, September 22, 2006

Proclamation 8052—National Farm Safety and Health Week, 2006

September 15, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Generations of farmers and ranchers have strengthened our Nation and enriched our communities by providing us with food, raw materials, and energy. National Farm Safety and Health Week is an opportunity to celebrate their contributions to America and raise awareness about potential hazards these workers and their families face. This year's theme, "Prepare to Prevent," underscores the importance of injury prevention, preparedness, and safety on farms and ranches.

Farming and ranching are challenging occupations. Agricultural workers often work long hours and are exposed to many dangers associated with heavy machinery, tools, livestock, chemicals, and extreme weather conditions. By identifying hazards and taking preventive measures, farmers and ranchers can create a safer environment for themselves and their employees. Wearing protective gear can help prevent injuries, and farm machinery can be equipped with safety devices to decrease accidents. Agricultural workers can also take steps to make their workplace safer by training family members and staff in first aid and other emergency response techniques.

Our country depends on farmers and ranchers to help provide an abundant and safe food supply for our citizens and for the world, and we are grateful to them for their significant contributions to the economic prosperity of our great Nation. By raising awareness about injury prevention and safety in the workplace, farmers and ranchers can protect their employees, families, and themselves, and continue their good work to help America stay productive and prosperous.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 17 through September 23, 2006, as National Farm Safety and Health Week. I call upon the agencies, organizations, and businesses that serve America's agricultural workers to continue to strengthen their commitment to promoting farm safety and health programs. I also urge all Americans to honor our agricultural heritage and to recognize our farmers and ranchers for their remarkable contributions to our Nation's prosperity and strength.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 19, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 20. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8053—Literacy Day, 2006

September 15, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The ability to read is the gateway to educational excellence and a key to success in any democratic society. On Literacy Day, we recognize the vital importance of literacy to our Nation and affirm our commitment to helping improve the lives of the men,

women, and children in America and around the world who cannot read.

Our society has a responsibility to ensure individuals have the educational opportunities to learn to read. Literacy is a basic requirement for healthy societies and enables people to better care for themselves and their families. Reading also encourages participation in the democratic process and helps people reach their full potential through self-reliance and independence.

My Administration is committed to helping children and adults gain the reading skills they need to succeed in life. Through No Child Left Behind programs such as Reading First, Early Reading First, and Striving Readers, we are challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations and helping to provide students with the foundation to achieve their dreams. Reading also helps adults to be better consumers, and wider literacy increases economic participation, which helps to create more stable and vibrant economies. The White House Conference on Global Literacy, led by First Lady Laura Bush, is working to promote literacy for individuals of all ages and help give people around the world the skills necessary for success. By increasing literacy, we can help change lives and equip all people with the knowledge and tools to excel in the 21st century.

On Literacy Day, we recognize the great value of reading and encourage individuals around the world to take an active role in promoting literacy. Together, we can build a stronger society and a bright future for people everywhere.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 18, 2006, as Literacy Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with programs and activities that advance literacy for Americans and all the people of the world. By donating books to local libraries, volunteering to tutor, supporting international literacy programs, and fostering a learning environment in the home, citizens across this great Nation can make a difference and help their fellow Americans and

people throughout the world enjoy the benefits of literacy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 19, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 20. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 16, 2006

Good morning. On Monday I visited New York, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon to attend memorials marking the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. It was an emotional day for me and for our country. On that day, we remembered those who lost their lives, and we paid tribute to those who gave their lives so that others might live. We rededicated ourselves to protecting the American people from another attack.

Next week, I will return to New York, where I will address the United Nations General Assembly. I look forward to talking to the world leaders gathered there about our obligation to defend civilization and how we must work together to support the forces of freedom and moderation throughout the Middle East.

As we work with the international community to defeat the terrorists and extremists, we must also provide our military and intelligence professionals the tools they need to keep our country safe. Congress is considering two vital pieces of legislation to help us do just that. My administration is working closely with members of both parties to pass these bills.

The first bill would allow us to use military commissions to try suspected terrorists for war crimes. We need this legislation because the Supreme Court has ruled that military commissions must be explicitly authorized by Congress.

Recently, I announced that 14 suspected terrorists, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the man believed to be the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, had been transferred to Guantanamo Bay. As soon as Congress acts to authorize the military commissions I have proposed, the men our intelligence agencies believed helped orchestrate the deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans on September the 11th, 2001, can face justice.

This bill will also provide clear rules for our personnel involved in detaining and questioning captured terrorists. The information the Central Intelligence Agency has obtained by questioning men like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has helped disrupt terrorist plots, including planned strikes inside the United States and on a U.S. Marine base in east Africa, an American consulate in Pakistan, and Britain's Heathrow Airport. This CIA program has saved American lives and the lives of people in other countries.

Unfortunately, the recent Supreme Court decision put the future of this program in question, and we need this legislation to save it. There is debate about the specific proposals in this bill, and my administration will work with Congress to find common ground. I have one test for this legislation: The intelligence community must be able to tell me that the bill Congress sends to my desk will allow this vital program to continue.

The second bill before Congress would modernize our electronic surveillance laws and provide additional authority for the terrorist surveillance program. I authorized the National Security Agency to operate this vital program in response to the 9/11 attacks. It allows us to quickly monitor terrorist communications between someone overseas and someone in America. It has helped detect and prevent terrorist attacks on our own country. The principle behind this program is clear: When Al Qaida operatives are calling into or out of our country, we need to know who they are calling, why they are calling, and what they are planning.

Both these bills are essential to winning the war on terror, so we will work with legislators from both sides of the aisle to get them passed. By passing these critical bills, we will bring terrorists to justice, continue collecting vital intelligence from captured terrorists in

a lawful way, and monitor terrorist communications, so we can stop new attacks on our Nation.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on September 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, senior Al Qaida leader responsible for planning the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, who was captured in Pakistan on March 1, 2003. He also referred to H.R. 6054, the "Military Commissions Act of 2006," and S. 2455 and S. 3874, both concerning the terrorist surveillance program. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2007

September 15, 2006

Presidential Determination No. 2006-24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2007

Pursuant to section 706(1) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY03 (Public Law 107-228) (FRAA), I hereby identify the following countries as major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

A country's presence on the Majors List is not necessarily an adverse reflection of its government's counternarcotics efforts or level of cooperation with the United States. Consistent with the statutory definition of a major drug transit or drug producing country set forth in section 481(e)(2) and (5) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), one of the reasons that major drug

transit or illicit drug producing countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit or be produced despite the concerned government's most assiduous enforcement measures.

Pursuant to section 706(2)(A) of the FRAA, I hereby designate Burma and Venezuela as countries that have failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and take the measures set forth in section 489(a)(1) of the FAA. Attached to this report (Tab A) are justifications for the determinations on Burma and Venezuela, as required by section 706(2)(B).

I have also determined, in accordance with provisions of section 706(3)(A) of the FRAA, that support for programs to aid Venezuela's democratic institutions is vital to the national interests of the United States.

Although President Karzai has strongly attacked narcotrafficking as the greatest threat to Afghanistan, one third of the Afghan economy remains opium-based, which contributes to widespread public corruption. The government at all levels must be held accountable to deter and eradicate poppy cultivation; remove and prosecute corrupt officials; and investigate, prosecute, or extradite narcotraffickers and those financing their activities. We are concerned that failure to act decisively now could undermine security, compromise democratic legitimacy, and imperil international support for vital assistance.

My Administration is concerned with the decline in Bolivian counternarcotics cooperation since October 2005. Bolivia, the world's third largest producer of cocaine, has undertaken policies that have allowed the expansion of coca cultivation and slowed the pace of eradication until mid-year, when it picked up. The Government of Bolivia's (GOB) policy of "zero cocaine, but not zero coca" has focused primarily on interdiction, to the near exclusion of its necessary complements, eradication and alternative development. However, the GOB has been supportive of interdiction initiatives and has had positive results in seizing cocaine and decommissioning rustic labs. We would encourage the

GOB to refocus its efforts on eliminating excess coca, the source of cocaine. This would include eradicating at least 5,000 hectares, including in the Chapare region; eliminating the "cato" exemption to Bolivian law; rescinding Ministerial Resolution 112, Administrative Resolution 083, and establishing tight controls on the sale of licit coca leaf for traditional use; and implementing strong precursor chemical control measures to prevent conversion of coca to cocaine. My Administration plans to review Bolivia's performance in these specific areas within 6 months.

The Government of Canada (GOC) continued to effectively curb the diversion of precursor chemicals that are required for methamphetamine production to feed U.S. illegal markets. The GOC also continued to seize laboratories that produce MDMA/Ecstasy consumed in both Canada and the United States. The principal drug concern was the continuing large-scale production of high-potency, indoor-grown marijuana for export to the United States. The United States enjoyed excellent cooperation with Canada across a broad range of law enforcement issues and shared goals.

The Government of Ecuador (GOE) has made considerable progress in combating narcotics trafficking destined for the United States. However, a dramatic increase in the quantity of cocaine transported toward the United States using Ecuadorian-flagged ships and indications of increased illegal armed group activity along Ecuador's northern border with Colombia remain areas of serious concern. Effective cooperation and streamlined maritime operational procedures between the U.S. Coast Guard and the Ecuadorian Navy are resulting in an increase in the amount of cocaine interdicted. Building on that cooperation, we will work with Ecuador to change the circumstances that make Ecuadorian-flagged vessels and Ecuadorian citizenship so attractive to drug traffickers.

As a result of the elections in Haiti, the new government now has a clear mandate from the Haitian people to bring crime, violent gangs, and drug trafficking under control. We urge the new government to strengthen and accelerate ongoing efforts to rebuild and reform Haiti's law enforcement

and judicial institutions and to consult closely with the United States to define achievable and verifiable steps to accomplish these goals.

While the Government of Nigeria continues to take substantive steps to curb official corruption, it remains a major challenge in Nigeria. We strongly encourage the government to continue to adequately fund and support the anti-corruption bodies that have been established there in order to fully address Nigeria's ongoing fight against corruption. We urge Nigeria to continue improving the effectiveness of the National Drug and Law Enforcement Agency and, in particular, improve enforcement operations at major airports/seaports and against major drug kingpins, to include targeting their financial assets. We look forward to working with Nigerian officials to increase extraditions and assisting in drug enforcement operations.

Although there have not been any drug seizures or apprehensions of drug traffickers with a connection to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) since 2004, we remain concerned about DPRK state-directed criminal activity. The United States Government has made clear to the DPRK that an end to all involvement in criminal activity is a necessary prerequisite to entry into the international community.

Under provisions of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA), which modified section 489(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and section 490(a) of the FAA, a report will be made to the Congress on March 1, 2007, naming the five countries that legally exported the largest amount of methamphetamine precursor chemicals, as well as the top five methamphetamine precursor importers with the highest rate of diversion for illicit drug production. This report will be sent concurrently with the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, which will also contain additional reporting on methamphetamine precursor chemicals pursuant to the CMEA.

You are hereby authorized and directed to submit this report under section 706 of the FRAA, transmit it to the Congress, and publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 18.

Remarks at the White House Conference on Global Literacy in New York City

September 18, 2006

Thank you all. Thank you for attending this important conference. I look around the room and see some familiar faces—my mother. [*Laughter*] How are you doing? It's good to see you; my mother-in-law. [*Laughter*] Both of these ladies have instilled a great passion for literacy not only in Laura and me but for others around our country. Thank you all for coming. Laura, thank you for your leadership.

Laura believes strongly in the power of literacy to change societies, and that's really what we're here to talk about. The capacity of—the simple act of teaching a child to read or an adult to read has the capacity to transform nations and yield the peace we all want.

So I want to thank you for being here. I particularly want to thank the First Ladies who are here and the ministers from different Governments around the world. We're really proud you've taken time to join us here today.

As you probably can tell, our Government takes this initiative seriously. After all, we've got the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and the Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings, both here. It should say to people loud and clear that when you combine the resources of the Department of Education and the State Department, that we're serious about helping global literacy. And then we've added Randy Tobias, who's the head of USAID. He's the fellow who's got the responsibility of handing out some money—[*laughter*]*—*which is what we're doing, because we believe strongly in this initiative. So I want to thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to send a clear message to folks.

I want to thank Mr. Matsuura of UNESCO. Thank you very much for serving. Thanks for leading this vital organization. We

want to work with you. And I see you're sitting next to one of my great friends—the Ambassador, Karen Hughes, is here as well.

I want to thank Paul LeClerc of the—of this fantastic library. Isn't this a wonderful place to meet? Obviously, it makes sense to meet in a library if you're going to talk about literacy. It's really one of the most special spots here in New York. And I also want to thank Catie Marron for allowing us to use this facility. She's the chairman of the board, and Paul, of course, is the president and CEO of the New York Public Library.

I want to thank those who have participated in panels. I had the honor of meeting some of the panelists and the panel leaders. I met Gerri Elliott, who is a corporate vice president of Microsoft. The reason I bring up Gerri Elliott is because, in America we believe that there is a combined responsibility to help. We believe government has got a vital role, but we also believe corporate America and our citizens have got a vital role to play in helping others benefit from learning how to read. And so I want to thank Gerri for setting such a good example.

I call upon others in our country to understand the importance of this initiative and to step forth. After all, a literacy initiative will help spread prosperity and peace. And that's really why we're here at the UNGA. I've been looking forward to coming here. As you know, it's an annual event. Every year, I get to come. It gives me a chance to meet with fellow leaders, and it gives me a chance to clearly explain, the goals of this country are to help those who feel hopeless; the goals of this country are to spread liberty; the goals of this country is to enhance prosperity and peace.

You can't have prosperity unless people can read. It's just as simple as that. You know, one of things that we have committed ourselves to in America is to help eradicate persistent poverty. But there is a direct link between illiteracy and persistent poverty. Oftentimes when we're talking about prosperity and helping this world become a more prosperous place, we tend to focus only on trade. And no question, good trade agreements and tearing down the barriers that prevent the free flow of goods will help enhance pros-

perity. But you can't be a prosperous nation if you don't have people who can read.

I mean, think about it; it's pretty clear—in order to be an informed consumer, you have to read. In order to be able to take advantages of jobs that may come to your country as a result of expanding economic opportunity, you've got to read. In order to be a productive worker, you have to be able to read the manual. And so part of this initiative, part of the practical application of this initiative is to encourage prosperity by enhancing people's capacity to read. And I want to thank you for your focus on that important issue.

I also strongly believe that those of us who have the benefits of living in free society must help others realize the benefits of liberty. I believe that. I believe that's part of America's responsibility in the world. I realize we can't impose our vision of government, nor should we try. But we believe here in America in the universality of freedom. We don't believe freedom belongs only to the United States of America; we believe that liberty is universal in its applications. We also believe strongly that as the world becomes more free, we'll see peace. That's what we believe. And we're going to act on those beliefs.

But one thing that's for certain: It is very hard to have free societies if the citizens cannot read. Think about that. It's much harder for a society to realize the universal blessings of liberty if your citizens can't read the newspaper in order to be able to make informed choices and decisions about what may be taking place in a country. You can't realize the blessings of liberty if you can't read a ballot or if you can't read what others are saying about the future of your country.

I am deeply concerned about the spread of radicalism, and I know you are as well. We long for the days when people don't feel comfortable or empowered to take innocent life to achieve an objective. One reason radicals are able to recruit young men, for example, to become suicide bombers is because of hopelessness. One way to defeat hopelessness is through literacy, is to giving people the fantastic hope that comes by being able to read and realize dreams.

So this literacy initiative is vital as far as the United States of America is concerned,

and we want to help. That's what I'm here to say. I want to thank you for being here, and let you know that we want to lend our help.

I know Laura talked about our initiative on the continent of Africa. It is a firm, real, dedicated commitment to helping folks become literate. We share—we have that same sense of commitment in more places than Africa. I mean, for example, in our own neighborhood, we are deeply concerned about illiteracy, and we believe it's in our national interest to help folks become literate in Central and South America.

One of the most, I guess, heartwarming literacy initiatives that I have witnessed as President was the Women's Teacher Training Institute in Kabul. I know there's some people from Afghanistan here, and I want to thank you for your courage and your bravery. I don't know if you know what the institute has been doing, but think back to the days prior to liberation when women really weren't let out of the house; young girls couldn't go to school. There was an underground teacher movement because of the great passion teachers feel for their students. And so after the liberation of the country, we have worked with that institute to teach trainers—teach teachers how to teach, in the knowledge that when they leave the institute, they'll then go to their village.

It's kind of this cascading movement of skill so that people can fulfill their compassion, fulfill their dreams about a more literate Afghanistan. This young democracy will survive. And one of the reasons it will survive is because of the committed effort by a lot of folks, not just the United States but by people around the world, to help the brave educational entrepreneurs that recognize hope and peace come about as a result of education.

We—a lot of times you hear a lot of words—people are pretty good talkers in this society of ours. People step up and make promises and, kind of, flowery statements. I want it to be said that our Government is doing more than just talking, that our Government is willing to act. We've doubled the development assistance since I've been the President. We have set forth what's called the Millennium Challenge Account. We said

we were going to help people, particularly those who fight corruption, those who believe in markets, but equally important, those who invest in the education and health of their citizens.

We believe strongly that this world must confront the pandemic of HIV/AIDS and believe that to whom much is given, much is required in order to solve disease and poverty—a lot of it brought about because—a lot of that poverty brought about because of illiteracy.

And so one thing I'd like for you to take away from today is, one, we're committed. We believe that the United States of America must not isolate ourselves from the problems of the world. We believe we have an opportunity to help you solve problems of the world.

There is nothing more hopeful, there's no greater gift than to teach a person to read. When I was the Governor of Texas, I remember an African American woman walking up to me, and we were talking about the importance of teaching every child to read—not just a few, but every child to read. We believe in America that reading shouldn't be the right of just a few people; it ought to be—it's universal as well. And the woman walked up to me, and she said, "Mr. Governor," she said, "I want you to understand how people in my community feel." She said, "Reading is the new civil right." I feel the same way about global literacy. Reading will yield the peace we want.

So thanks for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. at the New York Public Library. In his remarks, he referred to Koichiro Matsuura, director-general, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Abdullah bin Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia in New York City

September 18, 2006

President Bush. It's been my honor, Mr. Prime Minister, to be with you. You're one of the outstanding leaders in a very important part of the world. I want to thank you for strategizing our discussions. We talked about a lot of things. The main thing we talked about is how we can work together to keep the peace. And I want to thank you for your time.

Prime Minister Abdullah. Thank you, Mr. President. You shared me—with me Americans nation's, and your views on many issues is very, very impressive. And I am certainly most likely to see that you are very concerned for peace and U.N. peacekeeping in the Middle East.

President Bush. Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:58 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France and an Exchange With Reporters in New York City

September 19, 2006

President Bush. It's been a pleasure to have a meaningful, strategic dialog with Jacques Chirac. We talked about a lot of subjects. It's important that France and the United States work closely to keep the peace. We talked about Iran; we talked about Syria; we talked about the Palestinian-Israeli issue; we talked about Darfur; we talked about common problems and how to solve those problems. It was a very constructive and important dialog.

Mr. President, welcome back to America, and thank you for your time.

President Chirac. We're always welcome in the United States. Relations between the United States and France are longstanding and deeply rooted.

Well, indeed, today we have discussed and evidenced the fact that we have common approaches and a common sense of the main issues that we discussed, relating as they do to peace and to development throughout the world—in fact, this coincides with the 61st U.N. General Assembly, which is going to meet today.

So we discussed peace and development. And particularly on the subject of peace-related issues, we addressed the issue of Iran, of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; we addressed Lebanon and, of course, Africa, in particular—in Africa. And with respect to Africa, we addressed the issue of what's going on in Darfur.

And we, as a result of this, have once again confirmed that we are entirely on the same wavelength—we have the same approach to the different issues, which are of deep and grave concern to us, as they challenge and jeopardize peace in different parts of the world.

I repeat what I've already said, namely that we concur, our views concur on these matters, particularly on the issue of a possible agreement with the Iranians. And therefore, France, I'm convinced, the United States, the American administration and the French Government see eye to eye on these matters and on how to address them.

President Bush. One question a side. Nedra [Nedra Pickler, Associated Press].

Iran/Nuclear Weapons Development

Q. Yes, thank you, Mr. President. President Chirac has proposed suspending the threat of sanctions against Iran as an incentive to get them to the negotiating table. What do you think of that idea?

President Bush. First of all, France and the United States share the same goal, and that is for the Iranians not to have a nuclear weapon.

Secondly, we share the same goal. We'd like to solve this problem diplomatically, and we understand working together is important. And the Iranians have got to understand, we share the same objective, and we're going to continue to strategize together.

The EU-3 will continue to dialog with the Iranians to get them to the table so that they

will suspend, verifiably suspend their enrichment activities, in which case, the United States will come to the table. And we believe time is of the essence. Should they continue to stall, we will then discuss the consequences of their stalling. And one of those consequences, of course, would be some kind of sanction program.

But now is the time for the Iranians to come to the table. And that's what we discussed.

President Chirac. For the past 2 days, I've had the opportunity to speak very clearly on the subject—at least I hope I've been very clear—and let me take this opportunity once again to say that the present views of the United States and I again see eye to eye on this one. I totally agree with President Bush. We are both determined to push forward on this one, to move ahead in a constructive manner. And the first thing we need to do is to find a solution so that, indeed—and end be put to the uranium enrichment activity being engaged in, and then we can move on to finding solutions to the other problems that arise and stem from this issue.

President Bush. Final question. Do you want to call on somebody?

[At this point, a question was asked in French, and no translation was provided.]

President Chirac. There never has been any ambiguity as to the positions adopted respectively by the Europeans, by the six, by the United States, and in particular by France. We have always said very clearly that any negotiations—and let's face it; this is the normal course of events; this negotiation is the normal way in which one expects to address and, indeed, settle, solve such a thorny issue as this one—that negotiations are the way we are heading.

Nonetheless, we have equally said that we cannot have negotiations if we do not have prior suspension, on the one hand, of uranium enrichment activity on the part of Iran, and on the other, on the part of the six, the agreement not to approach the Security Council on this matter, in particular, this will include the possibility of examining a sanction program.

I think this has been said abundantly clearly time and again, and I do not really under-

stand what kind of controversy has arisen or misunderstanding could have crept in, insofar as this, as I said, has been repeatedly said. Maybe it's due to a lack of understanding of the situation, but there's no ambiguity on our side.

President Bush. Thank you, Jacques.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to the United Nations General Assembly in New York City September 19, 2006

Mr. Secretary-General, Madam President, distinguished delegates, and ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you for the privilege of speaking to this General Assembly.

Last week, America and the world marked the fifth anniversary of the attacks that filled another September morning with death and suffering. On that terrible day, extremists killed nearly 3,000 innocent people, including citizens of dozens of nations represented right here in this chamber. Since then, the enemies of humanity have continued their campaign of murder. Al Qaida and those inspired by its extremist ideology have attacked more than two dozen nations. And recently a different group of extremists deliberately provoked a terrible conflict in Lebanon. At the start of the 21st century, it is clear that the world is engaged in a great ideological struggle between extremists who use terror as a weapon to create fear and moderate people who work for peace.

Five years ago, I stood at this podium and called on the community of nations to defend civilization and build a more hopeful future. This is still the great challenge of our time; it is the calling of our generation. This morning I want to speak about the more hopeful world that is within our reach, a world beyond terror, where ordinary men and women are free to determine their own destiny, where the voices of moderation are empowered, and where the extremists are marginalized by the peaceful majority. This world can be ours if we seek it and if we work together.

The principles of this world beyond terror can be found in the very first sentence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document declares that the “equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom and justice and peace in the world.” One of the authors of this document was a Lebanese diplomat named Charles Malik, who would go on to become President of this Assembly. Mr. Malik insisted that these principles apply equally to all people of all regions, of all religions, including the men and women of the Arab world that was his home.

In the nearly six decades since that document was approved, we have seen the forces of freedom and moderation transform entire continents. Sixty years after a terrible war, Europe is now whole, free, and at peace—and Asia has seen freedom progress and hundreds of millions of people lifted out of desperate poverty. The words of the Universal Declaration are as true today as they were when they were written. As liberty flourishes, nations grow in tolerance and hope and peace. And we’re seeing that bright future begin to take root in the broader Middle East.

Some of the changes in the Middle East have been dramatic, and we see the results in this chamber. Five years ago, Afghanistan was ruled by the brutal Taliban regime, and its seat in this body was contested. Now this seat is held by the freely elected Government of Afghanistan, which is represented today by President Karzai. Five years ago, Iraq’s seat in this body was held by a dictator who killed his citizens, invaded his neighbors, and showed his contempt for the world by defying more than a dozen U.N. Security Council resolutions. Now Iraq’s seat is held by a democratic Government that embodies the aspirations of the Iraq people, represented today by President Talabani. With these changes, more than 50 million people have been given a voice in this chamber for the first time in decades.

Some of the changes in the Middle East are happening gradually, but they are real. Algeria has held its first competitive Presidential election, and the military remained neutral. The United Arab Emirates recently announced that half of its seats in the Federal

National Council will be chosen by elections. Kuwait held elections in which women were allowed to vote and run for office for the first time. Citizens have voted in municipal elections in Saudi Arabia, in parliamentary elections in Jordan and Bahrain, and in multiparty Presidential elections in Yemen and Egypt. These are important steps, and the governments should continue to move forward with other reforms that show they trust their people. Every nation that travels the road to freedom moves at a different pace, and the democracies they build will reflect their own culture and traditions. But the destination is the same, a free society where people live at peace with each other and at peace with the world.

Some have argued that the democratic changes we’re seeing in the Middle East are destabilizing the region. This argument rests on a false assumption that the Middle East was stable to begin with. The reality is that the stability we thought we saw in the Middle East was a mirage. For decades, millions of men and women in the region have been trapped in oppression and hopelessness. And these conditions left a generation disillusioned and made this region a breeding ground for extremism.

Imagine what it’s like to be a young person living in a country that is not moving toward reform. You’re 21 years old, and while your peers in other parts of the world are casting their ballots for the first time, you are powerless to change the course of your government. While your peers in other parts of the world have received educations that prepare them for the opportunities of a global economy, you have been fed propaganda and conspiracy theories that blame others for your country’s shortcomings. And everywhere you turn, you hear extremists who tell you that you can escape your misery and regain your dignity through violence and terror and martyrdom. For many across the broader Middle East, this is the dismal choice presented every day.

Every civilized nation, including those in the Muslim world, must support those in the region who are offering a more hopeful alternative. We know that when people have a voice in their future, they are less likely to blow themselves up in suicide attacks. We

know that when leaders are accountable to their people, they are more likely to seek national greatness in the achievements of their citizens, rather than in terror and conquest. So we must stand with democratic leaders and moderate reformers across the broader Middle East. We must give them—voice to the hopes of decent men and women who want for their children the same things we want for ours. We must seek stability through a free and just Middle East where the extremists are marginalized by millions of citizens in control of their own destinies.

Today I'd like to speak directly to the people across the broader Middle East: My country desires peace. Extremists in your midst spread propaganda claiming that the West is engaged in a war against Islam. This propaganda is false, and its purpose is to confuse you and justify acts of terror. We respect Islam, but we will protect our people from those who pervert Islam to sow death and destruction. Our goal is to help you build a more tolerant and hopeful society that honors people of all faiths and promotes the peace.

To the people of Iraq: Nearly 12 million of you braved the car bombers and assassins last December to vote in free elections. The world saw you hold up purple ink-stained fingers, and your courage filled us with admiration. You've stood firm in the face of horrendous acts of terror and sectarian violence, and we will not abandon you in your struggle to build a free nation. America and our coalition partners will continue to stand with the democratic Government you elected. We will continue to help you secure the international assistance and investment you need to create jobs and opportunity, working with the United Nations and through the International Compact with Iraq endorsed here in New York yesterday. We will continue to train those of you who stepped forward to fight the enemies of freedom. We will not yield the future of your country to terrorists and extremists. In return, your leaders must rise to the challenges your country is facing and make difficult choices to bring security and prosperity. Working together, we will help your democracy succeed, so it can become a beacon of hope for millions in the Muslim world.

To the people of Afghanistan: Together we overthrew the Taliban regime that brought misery into your lives and harbored terrorists who brought death to the citizens of many nations. Since then, we have watched you choose your leaders in free elections and build a democratic government. You can be proud of these achievements. We respect your courage and your determination to live in peace and freedom, and we will continue to stand with you to defend your democratic gains. Today, forces from more than 40 countries, including members of the NATO Alliance, are bravely serving side by side with you against the extremists who want to bring down the free Government you've established. We'll help you defeat these enemies and build a free Afghanistan that will never again oppress you or be a safe haven for terrorists.

To the people of Lebanon: Last year, you inspired the world when you came out into the streets to demand your independence from Syrian dominance. You drove Syrian forces from your country, and you reestablished democracy. Since then, you have been tested by the fighting that began with Hizballah's unprovoked attacks on Israel. Many of you have seen your homes and your communities caught in crossfire. We see your suffering, and the world is helping you to rebuild your country and helping you deal with the armed extremists who are undermining your democracy by acting as a state within a state. The United Nations has passed a good resolution that has authorized an international force, led by France and Italy, to help you restore Lebanese sovereignty over Lebanese soil. For many years, Lebanon was a model of democracy and pluralism and openness in the region—and it will be again.

To the people of Iran: The United States respects you; we respect your country. We admire your rich history, your vibrant culture, and your many contributions to civilization. You deserve an opportunity to determine your own future, an economy that rewards your intelligence and your talents, and a society that allows you to fulfill your tremendous potential. The greatest obstacle to this future is that your rulers have chosen to deny you liberty and to use your nation's

resources to fund terrorism and fuel extremism and pursue nuclear weapons. The United Nations has passed a clear resolution requiring that the regime in Tehran meet its international obligations. Iran must abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions. Despite what the regime tells you, we have no objection to Iran's pursuit of a truly peaceful nuclear power program. We're working toward a diplomatic solution to this crisis. And as we do, we look to the day when you can live in freedom and America and Iran can be good friends and close partners in the cause of peace.

To the people of Syria: Your land is home to a great people with a proud tradition of learning and commerce. Today, your rulers have allowed your country to become a crossroad for terrorism. In your midst, Hamas and Hizballah are working to destabilize the region, and your Government is turning your country into a tool of Iran. This is increasing your country's isolation from the world. Your Government must choose a better way forward by ending its support for terror and living in peace with your neighbors and opening the way to a better life for you and your families.

To the people of Darfur: You have suffered unspeakable violence, and my nation has called these atrocities what they are—genocide. For the last 2 years, America joined with the international community to provide emergency food aid and support for an African Union peacekeeping force. Yet your suffering continues. The world must step forward to provide additional humanitarian aid, and we must strengthen the African Union force that has done good work but is not strong enough to protect you. The Security Council has approved a resolution that would transform the African Union force into a blue-helmeted force that is larger and more robust. To increase its strength and effectiveness, NATO nations should provide logistics and other support. The regime in Khartoum is stopping the deployment of this force. If the Sudanese Government does not approve this peacekeeping force quickly, the United Nations must act. Your lives and the credibility of the United Nations is at stake. So today I'm announcing that I'm naming a Presidential special envoy, former USAID

Administrator Andrew Natsios, to lead America's efforts to resolve the outstanding disputes and help bring peace to your land.

The world must also stand up for peace in the Holy Land. I'm committed to two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. I'm committed to a Palestinian state that has territorial integrity and will live peacefully with the Jewish state of Israel. This is the vision set forth in the roadmap, and helping the parties reach this goal is one of the great objectives of my Presidency. The Palestinian people have suffered from decades of corruption and violence and the daily humiliation of occupation. Israeli citizens have endured brutal acts of terrorism and constant fear of attack since the birth of their nation. Many brave men and women have made the commitment to peace. Yet extremists in the region are stirring up hatred and trying to prevent these moderate voices from prevailing.

This struggle is unfolding in the Palestinian territories. Earlier this year, the Palestinian people voted in a free election. The leaders of Hamas campaigned on a platform of ending corruption and improving the lives of the Palestinian people, and they prevailed. The world is waiting to see whether the Hamas Government will follow through on its promises or pursue an extremist agenda. The world has sent a clear message to the leaders of Hamas: Serve the interests of the Palestinian people; abandon terror; recognize Israel's right to exist; honor agreements; and work for peace.

President Abbas is committed to peace and to his people's aspirations for a state of their own. Prime Minister Olmert is committed to peace and has said he intends to meet with President Abbas to make real progress on the outstanding issues between them. I believe peace can be achieved and that a democratic Palestinian state is possible. I hear from leaders in the region who want to help. I've directed Secretary of State Rice to lead a diplomatic effort to engage moderate leaders across the region, to help the Palestinians reform their security services and support Israeli and Palestinian leaders in their efforts to come together to resolve their differences. Prime Minister Blair has

indicated that his country will work with partners in Europe to help strengthen the governing institutions of the Palestinian administration. We welcome his initiative. Countries like Saudi Arabia and Jordan and Egypt have made clear they're willing to contribute the diplomatic and financial assistance necessary to help these efforts succeed. I'm optimistic that by supporting the forces of democracy and moderation, we can help Israelis and Palestinians build a more hopeful future and achieve the peace in a Holy Land we all want.

Freedom, by its nature, cannot be imposed—it must be chosen. From Beirut to Baghdad, people are making the choice for freedom. And the nations gathered in this chamber must make a choice as well: Will we support the moderates and reformers who are working for change across the Middle East, or will we yield the future to the terrorists and extremists? America has made its choice: We will stand with the moderates and reformers.

Recently a courageous group of Arab and Muslim intellectuals wrote me a letter. In it, they said this: "The shore of reform is the only one on which any lights appear, even though the journey demands courage and patience and perseverance." The United Nations was created to make that journey possible. Together we must support the dreams of good and decent people who are working to transform a troubled region, and by doing so, we will advance the high ideals on which this institution was founded.

Thank you for your time. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the General Assembly Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations; Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President, 61st Session of the U.N. General Assembly; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; former President Saddam Hussein and President Jalal Talabani of Iraq; President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations in New York City

September 19, 2006

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished members of the United Nations community, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we're proud to welcome you here to our country.

I'm pleased to be with you at the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly, this year under the President—under the leadership of President Sheikha Khalifa from Bahrain, the first woman from the Middle East to serve in this position. We welcome her presence on the podium.

Mr. Secretary-General, it is appropriate that we offer you a toast today, a toast based upon our gratitude for your 10 years of service to this important body. We need to toast your compassion, when the world saw the United Nations respond to natural disasters. We need to toast your desire for peace. We need to toast the fact that you're a hard worker. For those of you who have had the honor of taking phone calls from Kofi Annan, you know that he's not always calling from the same address. I've talked to him a lot of times during my time as President, and a lot of times my discussions with him came from when he was in faraway places, because he cares deeply about the world.

We need to toast the fact that he loves his wife, and his wife loves him. We need to toast the fact that he is a decent, honorable man. We need to raise our glasses to 10 years of extraordinary service and be thankful that a man such as Kofi Annan was willing to stand up and serve the cause of justice and peace.

And so now if you'll join me in a toast to a good man and a good friend, and we ask for God's blessings on you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:14 p.m. at the United Nations headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President, 61st Session of the U.N. General Assembly; and Nane Maria Annan, wife of Secretary-General Annan. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-General Annan. A tape was

not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jalal Talabani of Iraq in New York City

September 19, 2006

President Bush. I want to thank the President of Iraq for joining us. President Talabani, you and your colleagues here have given us time so we can strategize together to help you succeed, help you become a democracy, a country that can sustain itself and govern itself and defend itself, in the heart of the Middle East.

I want to congratulate the Iraqi people on your courage. These are tough times. There is still violence in your midst because extremists want to stop the advance of a free society. We spent time strategizing on how we can continue to help the Iraqi Government provide security for her people. It's not only security that comes from troops but security that comes from economic vitality.

We had a very good meeting yesterday on the compact for Iraq. The international community came and listened very carefully to the Iraqi Government's proposals and pledged support for this new democracy, and that ought to hearten the Iraqi people. I made it very clear to the President that it's important for the Government of Iraq to continue to make very difficult decisions so that the people of Iraq see progress, to see different political parties capable of working together for the good of the country and for the good of the people. I'm optimistic that this Government will succeed. And I've told the President of Iraq that America has given her word to help you, and we will keep our word. The people of Iraq must know that.

I spoke today at the United Nations, and in my speech, I spoke directly to the people of Iraq. I wanted them to know that we're thinking about them during this difficult period of time. I want them to know we appreciate their courage. And I want them to know that the United States of America stands with them, so long as the Government continues to make the tough choices necessary for peace to prevail.

So, Mr. President, thank you for coming again. I appreciate your time. I appreciate your longstanding courage and support for freedom and liberty. History will judge you kindly, Mr. President, when they look back and realize that under your leadership, a new democracy began to flourish in the heart of the Middle East, called Iraq.

Welcome.

President Talabani. Thank you. Today we were honored to meet President Bush, who we consider him as the hero of liberation of Iraq and who we are—very much appreciate the sacrifice of brave American Army, those who gave their life to liberate our country from the worst kind of dictatorship, which left behind mass graves with hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis in it. And the liberation of Iraq from this kind of dictatorship opened the door for Iraqi people to enjoy democracy, human rights, and all kinds of liberties, and to have free election, the National Assembly then elects the Presidency and Speaker and Prime Minister, and to have national unity, a Government headed by Dr. Maliki.

This Government is representing main portions of Iraqi people, of course Arabs, Sunnis, Shi'as, Turkomans, Christians, Muslims, everyone represented in this Government, and is working well for national reconciliation. I briefed his Excellency, President, about the steps we have taken towards implementing—implementation of national reconciliation program. And also, I told him that we are trying to do our best to remove all obstacles in the way of national reconciliation, to try to review some of those like de-Baathification and look to the amendment of a Constitution and also try to have some kind of discussion, free discussion about federation and some other issues. We have also our roadmap in Iraq, which was decided by a political council of national security for solving other problems of Iraqi people.

We, again, expressed our gratitude to his Excellency, our dear friend, President George Bush, and to American people. We hope that America also understand that we are grateful to them, to the America, and we will never forget those friends who helped us in the difficult days of Iraq, and Iraq will be always in the future in very good relation

and be the friend of the United States and partner of United States in fighting against tyranny, dictatorship, and terrorism. You can count on the Iraqi people, Mr. President, in fighting against terrorism and for democratization of whole Middle East.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:16 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. President Talabani referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Action on the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement

September 19, 2006

I commend the Senate for passing the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement, which will deliver benefits to both America and Oman. This agreement will level the playing field for U.S. workers and businesses, provide additional market access for U.S. goods, help Oman's leaders develop long-term opportunities for their people, and advance our shared goal of building a Middle East Free Trade Area.

By strengthening our relations with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East, this important agreement will also help protect America's national security interests.

I look forward to signing this legislation into law.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Alice S. Fisher To Be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice

September 19, 2006

I am pleased that the Senate acted today to confirm Alice S. Fisher as Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice.

Alice is a talented and effective public servant. As Acting Assistant Attorney General, she has led hundreds of DOJ attorneys and other staff in their efforts to combat terrorism, gang violence, drug trafficking, corruption, fraud, and crimes against children.

I am confident she will continue to dedicate herself to keeping Americans safe from crime and bringing those who violate our laws to justice.

I continue to encourage the Senate to provide all of my nominees a prompt up-or-down vote.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority in New York City

September 20, 2006

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for coming. Yesterday, in my speech to the United Nations, I said that you're a man of peace who believes in a two-state solution. And after our conversation today, once again you confirmed that.

I, too, believe that the best way to bring peace to the Holy Land is for two democratic states living side by side in peace. I said in my speech yesterday that the Palestinian state must have territorial integrity. I firmly believe that. I also said in my speech that the—one of the great objectives of my administration is to achieve this vision. I fully understand that in order to achieve this vision, there must be leaders willing to speak out and act on behalf of people who yearn for peace, and you are such a leader, Mr. President.

I can't thank you enough for the courage you have shown. I assure you that our Government wants to work with you in order—so that you're able—capable of delivering the vision that so many Palestinians long for, and that is a society in which they can raise their children in peace and hope. And I know that society is possible. And I appreciate your vision along those lines.

So, welcome to Washington, DC [the United States] *; I think this is our fifth visit. Every time, I've left our visits inspired by your vision.

President Abbas. Mr. President, thank you very much. I'm honored to meet with you, as you said, for the fifth time during these past years.

* White House correction.

First of all, I would like to thank you greatly for the wonderful speech that you have delivered yesterday before the United Nations, and talk about the Palestinian issues and your vision of two states, and you adopt this vision. Mr. President, you are the first American President to adopt the vision of two states living side by side.

Of course, I've talked with the President about the situation in the Palestinian Territories and the difficulties that the Palestinian people are facing as well as the possible solution that can get us out of these difficulties. And I mentioned to the President that more than 70 percent of the Palestinian population, they believe in the two-state solution, a state of Palestine and a state of Israel living in peace and security next to each other. That means that the Palestinian people desire peace, and there is no power on Earth that can prevent the Palestinian people from moving toward the peaceful solution and living and coexisting in peace.

Of course, we look forward to activate the various plans and various resolutions and the roadmap in order to be in a position to reach, with our neighbors, the desired objectives.

We always, Mr. President—we look forward to your support and your help and your aid, because we are in dire need for your help and support. Mr. President, we will always be faithful and truthful to peace, and we will not disappoint you.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:33 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. President Abbas spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Creation of the United States-China Strategic Economic Dialogue

September 20, 2006

I am pleased to welcome the creation of the Strategic Economic Dialogue between the United States and China. My leading economic adviser, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson, will chair the U.S. side of the dialog, with support from Allan Hubbard,

the Director of my National Economic Council. Deborah Lehr will serve as Secretary Paulson's special envoy to the dialog. President Hu and I agree on the importance of maintaining strong and mutually beneficial U.S.-China economic relations and on the need to establish an overarching bilateral economic framework between our two countries. The Strategic Economic Dialogue will help us achieve those objectives.

The economies of the United States and China have been engines of global growth. We must ensure that citizens of both countries benefit equitably from our growing economic relationship and that we work together to address economic challenges and opportunities.

Proclamation 8054—Gold Star Mother's Day, 2006

September 20, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since America's founding, every generation has produced patriots willing to sacrifice for our great Nation. Many of these proud sons and daughters have given everything for our freedom, and America has mourned the loss of every life. On Gold Star Mother's Day, we pay special tribute to the mothers of those lost while defending our country and extending the blessings of liberty to others.

Gold Star Mothers have long borne the hardships of war with dignity and devotion. Through heartbreaking loss and unimaginable grief, they continue to support each other through difficult times, stand up for those wearing the uniform of the United States, and serve their communities in the best traditions of the American spirit. Their strength, compassion, and determination are an inspiration to all and a source of great pride for our Nation.

America lives in freedom because of the sacrifices of America's finest citizens and of the mothers who raised them. In the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944, "There is nothing adequate which anyone in any place can say to those who are entitled

to display the gold star in their windows.” Each year, this observance is an opportunity to offer our solemn respect to Gold Star Mothers and renew our ongoing pledge that America will always remember those who died while wearing the uniform of the United States and forever honor their families’ sacrifice.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895 as amended), has designated the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in its observance. On this day, we express our deep gratitude to our Nation’s Gold Star Mothers, and we ask God’s blessings on them and on their families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 24, 2006, as Gold Star Mother’s Day. I call upon all Government officials to display the flag of the United States over Government buildings on this solemn day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as a public expression of our Nation’s sympathy and respect for our Gold Star Mothers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 25, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 26.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding Office
September 20, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2007 Budget amendments for the

Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding Office in the Department of Homeland Security. The total discretionary budget authority in my FY 2007 Budget would not be increased by this request.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate Gus Bilirakis in Tampa, Florida

September 21, 2006

Gus, thanks. There’s nothing wrong with a son following in his father’s footsteps, particularly when you’ve got such a good son as Gus Bilirakis. [Laughter] He’s the right man for the United States Congress, and I appreciate you all coming to support him.

I’ve been looking for Brother. [Laughter] He claims he’s working. [Laughter] But I know he sends his best. He, like me, recognizes that Gus is the right man to serve you in the United States Congress. He really is. He’s a good, decent, honorable, family-oriented man who will represent the interests of the folks down here. So Jeb sends his best.

But more importantly, so does Laura. [Laughter] Like me, Gus married well—[laughter]—and it was my privilege to meet Eva and the four boys who are here. It’s good to see you guys. Thanks for coming. Thanks for helping Dad get elected. He’s going to need your help putting up those signs. And he’s going to need the help of a family standing with him. And that’s why it’s important to have people who go to Washington, DC, who have prioritized their families. And the Bilirakis is a family-oriented group of folks. They understand that families are important for a stable society, and I’m proud to be here with Gus and all his friends.

Thank you all for coming. It’s not easy to have a fundraiser this successful; it really isn’t. And I know how much work it took, Gus, to convince this many people for coming. It’s a good sign when you’re running for Congress, Gus, and you get this many people to stand up and say, “We’re willing to help

you.” And for those of you who have given, thanks. And for those of you who wonder if there’s still more to do, there is. And so I urge you to think about putting up signs and getting on the telephone and turning out the votes. Go to your churches and places of worship, community centers, and remind people, when you’ve got somebody who is honest and decent and who shares the values of the people in Tampa, vote for him and send him to Washington, DC.

We not only married well; we share something else in common: We’ve got strong-willed mothers. [*Laughter*] And I’m glad to be here with Evelyn. The only difference between Ms. Bilirakis and my mother is, my mother’s hair is white. [*Laughter*] Both of them speak their mind. As a matter of fact, when I ran into Miss Bilirakis earlier, she said to me—this is in Washington—she says, “My boy is running, and you get down there and help him as quickly as you can.” [*Laughter*] Isn’t that right? [*Laughter*] I’m proud to be with you. And thanks for serving. You married a good man. He served this district well, as will his son.

I’m proud to be here with Congresswoman Katherine Harris, running for the United States Senate. I want to thank Bing Kearney, who is the event chairman, and all the organizers. Appreciate you coming. Thanks for your help.

I’m looking forward to the campaign. I’m looking forward to reminding the American people there are significant differences in between what our party believes and what the other party believes. If there’s a—it’s easy to tell us apart. And the first place you can start is looking at taxes. There’s a fundamental difference in this campaign and campaigns all across the country about who best to spend your money. We believe that the best people to spend your money is you. We believe that once you set priorities, it’s important to have money in their pocket, because we know that when you save, invest, and spend, it helps this economy grow.

And so working with Members of the United States Congress, we passed the largest tax relief since Ronald Reagan was the President. We cut the taxes on everybody who pays income taxes. We doubled the child credit. We reduced the marriage penalty. We

didn’t think it made sense, by the way, to penalize marriage. We think in society, you ought to encourage marriage.

We cut the taxes on capital and—capital gains and dividends to encourage investment. We understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes. We put the death tax on the road to extinction, because we want to help our small businesses and farmers. There should be no doubt in anybody’s mind where we stand on cutting taxes.

And the Democrats in Washington have got a record of their own, and there should be no doubt in anybody’s mind where they stand. When we first cut taxes back in 2001 to get this economy going, when we cut taxes to recover from a recession, when we cut taxes to make sure we recovered from a corporate scandal, almost 85 percent of the House Democrats voted against it. When we cut taxes in 2003, nearly 95 percent of the House Democrats voted against you having more money in your pocket. And when we extended the key tax cuts earlier this year, more than 92 percent of the House Democrats voted against it. I think you’re beginning to get a drift of their philosophy about your money.

One leading Democrat predicted this: He said the tax cuts would do nothing to create jobs. That’s what they were saying when we said we were going to cut the taxes on the small-business owners and the working people to make sure you had more money in your pocket, which would stimulate job growth. And one of the leaders said, “No, that’s not going to do anything to create jobs.” Well, since those words were uttered in May of 2003, our economy has added nearly 5.7 million new jobs. That’s more jobs than Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, all put together. This economy is strong because of pro-growth economic policies.

You see, what our opponents don’t understand is that the economy grows when you control more of your own money. The tax cuts we passed put more than a trillion dollars in the hands of American workers and families and businesses. And you used that

money to help us become a strong economy, the world leader.

And now we've got a choice to make, and that's what elections are all about, giving the people clear choices. Do you want to keep your taxes low so we can keep the economy growing, or do we raise taxes and let the politicians in Washington try to grow the economy?

Gus has made his position clear, and so have I. We're going to let you keep more of your own money. But the Democrats have made their position clear too. I want you to remember, the last time they had control of the United States Congress back in 1993, they passed a massive tax increase. In the 13 years since then, they've worked hard to sustain their record as the party of high taxes.

A majority of House Democrats have voted against reducing the marriage penalty not once, not twice, but 26 times. It's a clear record. A majority of House Democrats have voted against a higher child tax credit 19 times. It's a clear record. If they get control of the House of Representatives, they'll raise your taxes, and it will hurt our economy, and that's why we're not going to let them get control of the House of Representatives—and elect people like Gus Bilirakis.

Just this week, the top Democrat on the House tax-writing committee said this—it's important for the American people to know there's a difference in point of view; they just think differently, got different philosophies about to do—what to do with your money. Here's what the top Democrat said on the committee that's going to write—determine what happens to your taxes. He said, "I can't think of one of our tax cuts that should be extended."

That's one way of saying, they're going to raise your taxes, because, you see, if you don't extend the tax cuts, your taxes go up. They may not call it a tax increase; they may want you to think something different. But if they don't extend the tax cuts that are set to expire, the working people, the small-business owners, those who are struggling to put food on the table for their families, the taxes are going to go up.

Now, they're going to say—they may not tell you they're going to raise your taxes. They're just going to say they're just going

to let the tax relief expire. That's like a boss who came in and said, "You know something, I'm going to let your last pay raise expire." [Laughter] We're not going to let it happen. We're going to make it clear the differences between our desire to keep your taxes low and their desire to run your taxes up. Good economic policy says, we got plenty of taxes in Washington, DC; let's make sure the entrepreneurs and small businesses have enough money in their pocket to expand this job base so people can find work.

And I'm looking forward to talking about this until election day. I think it's a big issue. I think there are plenty of people across the country—Republicans, discerning Democrats, and wise independents—who understand they're paying plenty of taxes to Washington, DC. Oh, you'll hear this; they're going to say—and Gus, I'm sure you'll have to deal with this—they're going to say, "Look, we've got to raise your taxes to balance the budget." That's not the way Washington, DC, works. They will raise your taxes and figure out new ways to spend your money. The best way to balance the budget is to keep progrowth economic policies in place that are generating additional tax revenues into the Treasury and be wise about how we spend your money.

We've got to set clear priorities in Washington, DC, and the top priority is to make sure our troops will have what it takes to defend the United States of America.

There's a lot of issues. A lot of issues will be—I'll be working with Gus on. One issue, of course, is to make sure we diversify our energy supplies. We've got to make sure we get off of hydrocarbons as quickly as possible. But in the meantime, we'll be exploring for hydrocarbons, and we'll do so in an environmentally friendly way that protects the coast of the State of Florida. I told you that I would support reasonable limits, extended limits, about off-shore drilling, and I've kept my word to the Governor. I've kept my word to the people of Florida, and I'm going to continue working with this Congressman to make sure that we have good, sane energy policy.

I'm going to continue to work with this Congressman-to-be on making sure seniors

have got prescription drugs that they can afford. You might remember, before I came into Washington, DC, Medicare was an important policy, but it was growing tired and old. Medicine was changing—there's a lot of doctors out here who know what I'm talking about—Medicare wasn't changing with it. It was a system that just simply wasn't meeting the needs of our seniors. So I said to Congress, "Why don't we modernize Medicare; why don't we make sure that our seniors have got prescription drug coverage as a part of a modern Medicare system."

We worked hard; we got the legislation out. And now I'm going to make sure we work with the United States Congress, the new Congress after this election, to make sure the Medicare reforms we put in place that are benefiting seniors of all political parties all across the Nation don't get watered down by people who think the best way to run medicine is to have the Federal Government make every single decision.

I'm looking forward to working with Gus Bilirakis to make sure the good reforms we put in place to make sure every child gets a good education stays there. The No Child Left Behind Act is making a significant difference for the United States of America, and Congressman, I look forward to working with you on its reauthorization.

And I'm looking forward to working with this good man to keep the peace. This is a nation at war. And we've got to have people in the United States Congress who see the world the way it is, not the way we would like it to be. We can't afford to not be realistic about the world in which we live. The stakes are too high. There's an enemy that still wants to attack us. I wish I could report otherwise, but that is not the reality of the world in which we live. And therefore, the most important job the Congressman will have—will—to join with other Members of Congress and the administration to protect the United States of America.

If somebody is—associated with Al Qaida is making a phone call into the United States of America, we want to know why, so we can protect the United States against further attack. If somebody associated with terrorism is moving money around, we need to know why, so we can protect the United States of

America from attack. If there are walls that make it hard for intelligence gatherers and those charged with protecting this country, make it hard for them to communicate, we want to tear down those walls so we can protect the United States of America from attack. Our most important job in Washington is to protect you, and we'll do everything we can.

I remind people that the enemy has got to be right once, and we got to be right 100 percent of the time in order to protect us. So the best way to protect the United States of America is to stay on the offense and bring the enemy to justice before they come here and hurt us in America.

And that's exactly what we're doing. Every day, you just need to know, some of America's finest folks are on the offense. We're running down every lead possible. It's hard to plot and plan attacks against the United States when you're on the run. I need Members of Congress who understand that you can't negotiate with these folks; you can't hope that they change their mind; that the best way to protect the American people is to defeat them overseas so we do not have to face them here at home.

And the central front on this war on terror is Iraq. Now, I know some Americans say, "Well, it's not associated with the war on terror." Well, all I ask them to do is listen to what Usama bin Laden says when he calls Iraq the third—world war III. All I ask is that our fellow citizens be realistic about the world and listen to the words of senior Al Qaida when they say our objective is to—their objective is to run us out of the Middle East so they can topple moderate governments, so they could have energy resources at their disposal to inflict economic damage on those of us who refuse to kowtow to their demands, run us out of the Middle East so that they could achieve one of their objectives, which is the destruction of our close ally Israel.

Iraq is a central front in this war on terror, and we've got a plan to defeat the enemy. And it starts with answering to the will of 12 million brave Iraqis who said, when given a chance to vote, "We want to be free."

There's big debate about Saddam Hussein. My view is today as it was then; he was a

threat. You see, after 9/11, we had to take threats seriously before they came home to hurt us. In order to protect this country—if you think the most important obligation of the Federal Government is to protect the country, then you must recognize that we do two things. One, if we find somebody harboring terrorists, we hold them to account; and we've got to take threats seriously before they come home to hurt us. Saddam Hussein was a threat.

And don't let people rewrite the history of the way the world was. He was a state sponsor of terror. He paid family of suiciders. He had attacked his neighbors. He had used weapons of mass destruction. He was a sworn enemy of the United States of America. And he had been given ample time to disclose, disarm, or face serious consequences by over a dozen United Nations Security Council resolutions. Getting rid of Saddam Hussein was the right thing to do, and the world is peaceful because of it—the world is more peaceful because of it.

And the world will be more peaceful when democracy takes hold in Iraq. And it's hard work. It's hard work because Al Qaida understands that democracies in the Middle East defeat their ideological vision of an extremist caliphate. It's hard because Saddamists are upset that they're no longer in power. It's hard because people are taking revenge for past history. But it's necessary work. It's necessary for our security.

If we were to leave before the mission was done, what kind of signal would that send to the extremists and radicals who want to harm either the United States or our close allies? What kind of signal would it send to the reformers and dreamers of a better life, that the United States has lost its will? What kind of signal would it send to those who count on the United States for its leadership? Our credibility would be damaged. Our enemies would be emboldened.

We're constantly changing tactics, but our strategy has not changed. We will help the Iraqis build a military where they can defend their freedom. We will help them build the institutions necessary for a free society to work. We will do our job and stand by the people of Iraq, and the world will be better for it when democracy takes hold.

You know, people ask me all the time—people ask me all the time, you know—they say, “What do you mean, when democracy takes hold? Do you think—really think people in the Middle East want to be free?” And the answer is, absolutely. We believe in the United States and the universality of freedom. I personally believe there's an Almighty, and I think a great gift from that Almighty is the desire in everybody's soul to be free. I'm not talking about just American Methodists. I believe in everybody's soul is the desire to be free. And I know that when you look at history, liberty has got the capacity to defeat resentment and ideologies of hate.

You know, one of the stories I like to share with people is my experience with the Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister Koizumi. You might remember, I had an interesting trip. [*Laughter*] He and I went down to Elvis' place. [*Laughter*] Went down there for a couple of reasons: One, I had never been to Elvis' place, and I'd like to go, you know. I thought it would be kind of fun. [*Laughter*] More importantly, he wanted to go. [*Laughter*] He loves Elvis. [*Laughter*] He can sing all the songs, you know—[*laughter*]—collects the memorabilia.

But I also wanted to send a signal to the American people about what's possible when liberty takes hold. A fellow came through the line recently here, and he said, “My grandfather served on the USS *San Jacinto* with your dad.” They were in the Pacific Ocean, young guys who had been called into action because the Japanese had attacked us, and we were in a brutal war with Japan—a really tough war.

The hatred for—of America for Japan was intense, and so intense, you can imagine how people would react if somebody had stood up and said, “I predict, someday, an American President and the Japanese Prime Minister would be going to, you know, a singer's house.” [*Laughter*] They would have run him out of town, probably, you know. [*Laughter*]

But that's, in fact, what happened. And when we were on the airplane going down from Washington to Memphis, we were talking about keeping the peace. The Prime Minister of a country with which we were at war, a brutal war—young kids went off and never

came home, unbelievable devastation and destruction in that war, a war ended by massive bombing—the Prime Minister of that country and the President of the United States were talking about peace. We were talking about North Korea, what we could do together to keep the peace. We were talking about the need to help this young democracy in the heart of the Middle East succeed so it could defeat an ideology of hatred. We were talking about how democracy has got the capacity to defeat the conditions that create resentment and hopelessness that cause young men to decide to become suicide bombers.

It's an amazing lesson of history, isn't it? It strikes me as so ironic, in a way, that my dad fought the Japanese, and his son sits down with the Prime Minister of the same country to keep the peace. What happened was, Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy. Liberty has got the unbelievable capacity to convert enemies into allies, to change nations from hopelessness to hope. Someday, an American President will be sitting down talking to duly elected leaders of the Middle East about how to keep the peace, and a generation of American children will be better off for it.

And those are the stakes. We're in the great ideological struggle of the 21st century. It's a struggle playing out now in the Middle East between decent, honorable people who want something better for their children than war and turbulence versus extremists and radicals who use terrorism and murder to create fear. And the United States must lead in this ideological struggle to achieve the peace we all want.

And so I'm proud to stand with a man who sees the world the way it is; a person who understands that this great country has got responsibilities not only to protect ourselves but responsibilities to lay the foundation for peace for generations to come.

It's an exciting time to be representing the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. You'll like it up there, Gus. *[Laughter]* And I hope you all work hard to make sure he gets there. Thanks for coming. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:36 p.m. at Raymond James Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Remarks on Senate Action on the “Military Commissions Act of 2006” in Orlando, Florida

September 21, 2006

I want to thank the Members of the United States Senate for working with my administration to meet our top legislative priority, and that is a law that will help us crack the terror network and to save American lives.

I had a single test for the pending legislation, and that's this: Would the CIA operators tell me whether they could go forward with the program, that is a program to question detainees to be able to get information to protect the American people? I'm pleased to say that this agreement preserves the most single—most potent tool we have in protecting America and foiling terrorist attacks, and that is the CIA program to question the world's most dangerous terrorists and to get their secrets.

The measure also creates military commissions that will bring these ruthless killers to justice. In short, the agreement clears the way to do what the American people expect us to do, to capture terrorists, to detain terrorists, to question terrorists, and then to try them. I hope the Congress will send me legislation before it wraps up their business next week.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:04 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando. In his remarks, he referred to S. 3930. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Remarks at a Reception for
Gubernatorial Candidate Charlie
Crist and the Republican Party of
Florida in Orlando**

September 21, 2006

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I appreciate you all being here. Thanks for your time. From “Chalkboard Charlie” to “Governor Charlie.” Thanks for helping this good man. He’s a good, decent man. He’s had plenty of experience. He knows what he needs to do. He’s been the commissioner of education; he’s been your attorney general; he’s been a State senator. He’s the right guy for the job, and I want to thank you very much for standing strong when you find somebody who is decent and honorable, willing to serve the State of Florida—and that’s Charlie Crist.

And you’re right, Charlie, you’re following a good man. He’s made our family proud. But more importantly, he’s done a fine job for the people of Florida. He’s the kind of guy—[*applause*]—and, Charlie, I know you’ll follow this example about you—he doesn’t need a poll or a focus group to tell him what to think.

And that’s what is necessary to make the hard decisions when you’re the chief executive officer of a State, or in my case, the United States. I’m proud to be here with Charlie. I know something about being a Governor; I was one once. It requires a man with vision and a person who knows how to set the right priorities for a State. There’s no doubt in my mind Charlie Crist will make a great Governor for the State of Florida, and I want to thank you for helping him.

And my wife feels the same way. If you were smart, Charlie, you’d get Laura down here to campaign for you. She sends her love; she sends her love to Jeb; and she sends her love to our friends here in Florida. And we’ve got a lot of friends. We’ve been blessed in this great State to have made a lot of friends. And I want to thank all my buddies who were there when nobody thought we could win in 2000, and then came back through in 2004. Now you’re back in 2006, and I’m grateful. It’s for a good cause.

I want to thank Jeff Kottkamp, the next Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida,

who is with us today. I, too, encourage you to vote for Katherine Harris for the United States Senate. Welcome, Katherine.

One of my long-time friends here in Orange County is a guy whose son made him famous—[*laughter*]—a while ago. You might remember the incident. I was up there giving one of my best speeches. [*Laughter*] I was putting 100 percent into it. I thought I had the crowd on their feet, until I looked behind me. And Crotty’s son was sound asleep. [*Laughter*] So, Crotty, you tell him, stay awake the next time he comes to one of these things. It kind of hurts an old guy’s feelings. But I’m glad to be here with Rich Crotty. He’s doing a fine job in Orange County.

I want to thank all the other State and local officials who are here. I want to thank the party activists who are here, starting with Carole Jean Jordan, who is the chairman of the Republican Party of Florida, and my friend Al Austin, who is the finance chairman of the Republican Party of Florida.

And raising money is one thing, and tonight is an extraordinarily successful event, and I thank you. I know it takes a lot to organize one of these events, and you’ve done a marvelous job. But I also want to remind you, in order for Charlie to win, he’s going to need people to put up the signs and make the phone calls and stuff the envelopes—those quiet heroes of grassroots politics. So for those of you who have been involved with grassroots politics here in Florida, thank you for what you have done and thank you for what you’re going to do to help this good man get elected Governor of the State of Florida.

You know, it’s—one of the big issues that faces our country and your State is the issue of taxes. I think you’re taxed too much; so does Charlie. And I think there’s going to be a clear difference in this race, and there’s certainly a clear difference nationally. You know, the—we share a philosophy, and that is, the role of Government is not to try to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes and which small businesses can grow to be big businesses. It’s an environment in which people get to keep their own money. And the fundamental question facing this Nation and this

State is, who best to spend your money? We believe the best people to spend your money is you.

The Democrats believe they can spend it better than you can.

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. And it's a fundamental, philosophical difference. I aim to make taxes a key issue across this country, and we've got a good record on taxes, and so does Brother Jeb, and so will Governor Crist.

I was proud to sign the largest tax relief since Ronald Reagan was President of the United States. I did so because I felt we had enough money to spend on your behalf in Washington, DC, and I knew that if you had more money in your pocket to save, invest, or spend, this economy would grow.

There's a fundamental difference in Washington. When we cut the taxes on child care, most Democrats voted against—on the child credit, most Democrats voted against it. We tried to get rid of the marriage penalty—it's a simple concept, by the way. You shouldn't penalize marriage in the Tax Code; you ought to encourage—most Democrats voted against it. When we tried to get the death tax on the road to extinction, most Democrats voted against it. We've got a record of cutting taxes, and they've got a record of opposing tax cuts. It's night and day. It is a clear example of the philosophical difference that divides Republicans and Democrats.

I remember in 2003 when we cut the taxes, one of the leading Democrats stood up and said, "Cutting taxes will do nothing to create jobs." Well, since that person uttered those famous words, our economy has added 5.7 million new jobs. This economy is strong.

This economy is strong because we let you have more of your own money, and we intend to keep it that way. Just the other day, a top Democrat—the top Democrat on the House tax writing committee—that's called the Ways and Means Committee; they'll be the people who decide whether or not your taxes go up or down—said this, "I can't think of one of our tax cuts that should be extended."

Now let me try to boil down Washington-speak for you. If the tax cuts are not extended, your taxes go up. It's kind of like an employer saying, you know, "I'm not going to extend your pay raise," see. And so

if they're going to say, "Well, we're just not going to extend the tax cuts," that means they're going to run up your taxes. Running up your taxes would be wrong for our economy, and it would be wrong for the working families of the United States.

So I asked Charlie, I said, what's he making a priority? He said, "I'm making property taxes a priority in the State of Florida." You put him in office, he's going to cut your property taxes, and you can take that to the bank.

You know, we enacted some good legislation when it came to making sure our seniors have got good health care. You might remember, the Medicare program had gone a little stale. We would pay for surgeries but not for the prescription drugs that would prevent the surgery from being needed in the first place. And that didn't make any sense. My attitude is, if you're going to provide a service for our seniors, let's provide a good service.

And so we modernized Medicare, and today, the bills that seniors pay for prescription drugs is way down, and the days of seniors—poor seniors having to choose between food and medicine, those days are over. And I'm going to need a Governor, just like Jeb did, to make sure the modernization of this Medicare program is available for all of Florida's seniors.

When I was the Governor of Texas, I used to say, education is to the State what national defense is to the Federal Government. I think it's the most important priority of a State, is to make sure the public school system insists upon excellence for every single child. And that's what Charlie thinks too. That's why I called him "Chalkboard." [Laughter] He understands that a Governor, just like your Governor has done, needs to lead when it comes to challenging mediocrity when we find it in the public schools.

It's essential that our public schools work. It's essential that we set high standards and measure to make sure children are learning how to read and write and add and subtract. And if we find it early, we'll correct problems early so no child is left behind in America or in the State of Florida.

These are the issues that the people of Florida are going to have to decide upon, you know—taxes, fiscal sanity, making sure

the health care system works, and making sure every single child gets educated. And I think if Floridians of all parties—or even if they're not of a party—pay attention to the debate, they'll find that Charlie Crist stands with them. He'll be a people's Governor. He likes to shake hands; he likes people. That's the kind of Governor you want. You want somebody who feels comfortable with the people of a State, somebody who can make decisions, and somebody who can set a clear vision on behalf of this vital State. And that's Charlie Crist.

I want to talk a little bit about the stakes of the world in which we live. We're at war. We're at war with a group of ideologists that use murder as a weapon to intimidate and create fear. I wish I could report otherwise.

I vowed after September the 11th, 2001, that I would use every one of our national assets in order to protect you. The most important job of any government in this day and age is to protect the American people from further attack. That starts with making sure our homeland is secure and making sure those on the frontline of protecting you have the tools necessary to be able to protect you. We have to find out what the enemy is thinking in order to stop attacks. If an Al Qaida or an Al Qaida associate is making a phone call into the United States, we need to know why in order to be able to protect you from further attacks.

If somebody is moving money around to finance a terrorist operation, we want to know why they're moving money around, to protect you. If the CIA and the FBI need to be able to share information to protect you, we need to make sure those walls are permanently torn down. In order to protect the United States of America, we must give those on the frontline that are protecting this Nation the tools necessary to do so within the Constitution of the United States, and that is precisely what this administration is doing.

But the facts are these: The enemy only has to be right one time to protect you—to hurt us, and we've got to be right 100 percent of the time to protect you, which means that the best way to protect the American people is to stay on the offense against these killers, defeat them overseas so we do not

have to face them here at home, and bring them to justice before they hurt us again.

And that's exactly what the United States of America is doing, with a lot of other nations. We're keeping the pressure on them. It's hard to plot and plan when you're on the run. And that's what we have been doing for 5½ years, and that's what we will continue to do so long as I'm your President. The most important job we have is to protect the American people.

You know, there's an enemy that still wants to strike. I mean, it should be clear to the American people, particularly after we recently, working with the Brits, foiled suicide attacks, bombing these airplanes when they're flying into the United States. These are ruthless people. You cannot negotiate with them; you can't hope that their ambitions go away; you can't try to—you know, therapy won't work. [Laughter] The only thing that matters is to bring them to justice. And make no mistake about it—[applause].

And so our strategy is twofold. On the one hand, we'll protect you by staying on the offense. But we've got another weapon beside a fantastic military and great intelligence people, and another weapon is liberty and freedom.

First, let me talk about the first part of our strategy. One is that when the President says something, he better mean it. And when I said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist or house a terrorist, you're equally as guilty as the terrorist, and you will be held to account." That's why we removed the Taliban that was providing safe haven for Al Qaida, from Afghanistan. Twenty-five million people now are free.

The second part of the strategy is, when you see a threat, you must take threats seriously before they come and hurt us in the United States. It's a different doctrine than we had in the past, but these threats are different than the threats we've had in the past.

I want to remind you that—what the world was like in 2001. In Iraq, there was a state sponsor of terror. There was a tyrant who brutalized his own people. This man was the sworn enemy of the United States of America. He paid suicide—families of suicide

bombers to attack young democracies, for example. He had used weapons of mass destruction. He was a threat.

Now, before the President commits troops, he must try diplomacy. I want you to walk back in that period of time and remember resolution after resolution after resolution that came through the United Nations, and yet the tyrant didn't change his mind. Saddam Hussein chose war, and war he got, and the world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power.

And now Iraq is the central front on the war on terror. I hear people in the United States, "Well, that's not true." My advice to them is to listen carefully to the words of the enemy. Usama bin Laden has called Iraq world war III. He and Mr. Zawahiri, the number-two man in Al Qaida, have made it clear that their intention is to drive us out of Iraq. They want the death and suffering we see on our TV screens to cause us to abandon the 12 million people who said, "We want to be free."

And they want us to leave because they want to topple moderate governments in the region. They want to get a hold of oil resources. Imagine these radical jihadists, these extremists who've subverted a great religion, controlling oil. They would—they would love to create economic havoc on the United States of America. They have clearly stated their ambitions. The Commander in Chief must always take the words of the enemy seriously. And like them, I see Iraq as the central front in the war on terror, and unlike them, however, I refuse to yield to their barbarism. And we're going to stand strong with the 12 million Iraqis and help that young democracy survive for the sake of peace for our children and our grandchildren.

And it is hard work, but America has done this kind of work before. I believe we're in a great ideological struggle. It's the ideological struggle of the 21st century. On the one hand, you have reasonable people—moms who want their children to grow up in a peaceful world; decent people who can't stand terror and violence and who long to be free—versus ideologues, people bound together by a common philosophy who use murder as a weapon. These are the stakes of the 21st century. And I'm confident we

will prevail, because I believe that liberty, liberty and freedom have got the capacity to overcome the dark vision of these ideologues.

We've seen it happen in our history before. We have seen liberty triumph over hopelessness and despair. See, in the short run, we will stay on the offense, and we will help those brave souls who want to fight the enemy overseas so we don't have to face them here. In the long run, we will lay the foundation of peace for our children by spreading liberty.

Now, one way to make this point to you and to the American citizens is to remind people about an interesting experience that I just had, when I flew to Memphis, Tennessee, with the Prime Minister of Japan. Prime Minister Koizumi and I went to Elvis' place. [*Laughter*] It was an interesting experience. I chose to go for three reasons: One, I had never been to Elvis' place—[*laughter*]—and I thought that would be fun to do; plus, Laura wanted to go to Elvis' place. [*Laughter*] Secondly—and secondly, the Prime Minister wanted to go to Elvis' place—[*laughter*]—because he's a big Elvis fan. He loved Elvis Presley. Isn't that interesting? The Prime Minister of Japan thought Elvis was "It."

But I also wanted to make a point to the American citizens, and it's this: My dad, and many of your relatives, fought the Japanese. They were the sworn enemy of the United States of America. And yet his son had invited the Prime Minister of the former sworn enemy to travel to Elvis Presley's place. And on that plane going down there, we talked about peace. We talked about what we could do, working together, to deal with Kim Jong Il in North Korea. We talked about the fact that Japan had 1,000 of her troops alongside our brave troops in Iraq to help this young democracy defeat the forces of hatred. We talked about HIV/AIDS on the continent of Africa and how the United States and Japan can work together to save lives. We talked about feeding the hungry. We talked about helping the fledgling democracy in Afghanistan survive against the Taliban's attempts to overthrow them.

Isn't it interesting? My dad fought the Japanese—or our dad fought the Japanese, and his son is now talking about the peace with

the sworn enemy. Can you imagine somebody in 1948, after this terrible war, with all the hatred and bloodshed, standing up in front of the country and saying, "I predict an American President someday will be taking a leader of the sworn enemy to the singer's house." [*Laughter*] They would have run him out of town. [*Laughter*]

But it happened; it happened because Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy. And the lesson of history is that liberty has got the capacity to change enemies into allies. Liberty has got the capacity to lay the foundation of peace. Someday, an American President will be sitting down with duly elected leaders in the Middle East talking about the peace, and a generation of Americans will be better off.

These are trying times for our country. We've got a lot of stuff going for us, though, you know. We've got a fantastic military. And I will assure you this, that our military will have whatever it takes to do their job and defend this country.

But we also have a lot of people who understand that liberty is not just an American concept. Liberty is universal. I personally believe there is an Almighty, and I believe that that Almighty's gift to each man and woman on the whole face of the Earth is the desire to be free. And I know that when people are able to realize that ambition, no matter what their religion, no matter where they live, the world will become a more peaceful place.

It's an honor to be the President of a country that has got such good values—determined country, a country that knows that history can repeat itself with perseverance and strength of character. No, these are challenging times, but out of these times will come a more secure America and a more peaceful world.

Thanks for helping Charlie. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Mayor Richard T. Crotty of Orange County, FL, and his son, Tyler; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Osama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah, 5767

September 21, 2006

I send greetings to those around the world celebrating Rosh Hashanah.

During these holy days, Jewish people begin the new year by answering the call of the Shofar and gathering in synagogues. It is a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the beginning of life, and welcome the promise of the future with a spirit of renewal and hope.

On this sacred holiday, I appreciate the Jewish people for your efforts to ensure that your values and traditions are passed on to future generations. As you begin the Days of Awe, your faith in the Almighty reminds us of the gift of religious freedom in our country and helps make the world a more hopeful place.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a peaceful Rosh Hashanah.

George W. Bush

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

Proclamation 8055—National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 2006

September 21, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In times of war or crisis, the citizen-soldiers of our National Guard and Reserve are ready and willing to answer the call of duty. During National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, we express our deep gratitude to these brave men and women and to the employers who support them and enable them to serve.

Members of the National Guard and Reserve put on the uniform of the United States when our country needs them most. In the war on terror, thousands of these civilians from all walks of life have been called away from their jobs and families and mobilized

for duty around the world. They are performing many different missions, but all are working to deliver the blessings of freedom to people who have not known liberty.

Here at home, the National Guard is working to protect our borders, and National Guard personnel and Reservists help rebuild communities and bring comfort, security, and healing to individuals in the aftermath of hurricanes and other natural disasters. The dedicated service of our National Guard and Reserve personnel is vital to the security of our Nation, and these patriots are an inspiration and source of pride to all Americans.

We also appreciate the commitment of the civilian employers of these courageous men and women. By providing time off, pay, health care benefits, and job security, these employers help members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families serve our country and prepare for their return to civilian life. In offices, schools, factories, and small businesses across America, employers operate without some of their most talented people, and America appreciates their support and the support they provide to their employees in our National Guard and Reserve.

National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week is an important opportunity to express our country's debt of gratitude to the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve and to all the employers who stand behind these dedicated individuals.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 24 through September 30, 2006, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our thanks to members of our National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers for their patriotic sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September,

in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 25, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 26.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism

September 21, 2006

On September 23, 2001, by Executive Order 13224, I declared a national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, in Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon of September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks against United States nationals or the United States. Because the actions of these persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States, the national emergency declared on September 23, 2001, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 23, 2006. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 21, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
11:45 a.m., September 21, 2006]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on September 22.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Persons
Who Commit, Threaten To Commit,
or Support Terrorism**

September 21, 2006

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2006. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on September 22, 2005 (70 FR 55703).

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, in Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon of September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these

reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 21, 2006.

**The President's News Conference
With President Pervez Musharraf of
Pakistan**

September 22, 2006

President Bush. Thank you very much. Please be seated. Laura and I appreciate the opportunity to welcome President and Mrs. Musharraf here to Washington. We remember fondly, Mr. President, your great hospitality in Pakistan, and we remember the importance of that visit. It reconfirmed our friendship, gave you and me a chance to discuss important issues. And there's no more important issue than defending our peoples.

This President is a strong defender of freedom and the people of Pakistan, and I appreciate your leadership.

President Musharraf. Thank you very much.

President Bush. He understands that we are in a struggle against extremists who will use terror as a weapon. He understands it just about as good as anybody in the world—after all, they've tried to take his life. These extremists who can't stand the thought of a moderate leader leading an important country like Pakistan want to kill the President. That should say things to the people of Pakistan and the people of America—that because he has been a strong, forceful leader, he has become a target of those who can't stand the thought of moderation prevailing.

I admire your leadership. I admire your courage. And I thank you very much for working on common strategies to protect our respective peoples.

We had a good discussion here today. We talked about how our intelligence cooperation can continue. I want to remind the people of Pakistan and the people of America that because of the good work of our intelligence forces and Pakistani intelligence forces, as we helped people in the United Kingdom, we prevented the loss of innocent life. That kind of cooperation is necessary in a world in which extremists and radicals are willing to kill to try to achieve political objectives.

We talked about the earthquake recovery, and our Nation was proud to support you, Mr. President, because we care when we see people suffering. And I was briefed by you and your administration when I was there, and I was impressed by the great organization and compassion shown for the Pakistani people by your Government. I hope all is going well, particularly for those who suffered mightily.

We talked about economic development and the need to move forward on a reconstruction opportunity zones as well as a bilateral investment treaty. In other words, our relationship is more than just helping to secure our respective homelands. Ours is a relationship that recognizes that through economic prosperity, people can embetter themselves.

We had a very interesting briefing on the federally administered tribal areas. The governor of the areas are with us here, and he briefed me and members of my national security team on the strategy to strengthen governance and to promote economic development.

We talked about education. The first time I ever met President Musharraf, he talked about the need to make sure that school systems in Pakistan worked well. I was impressed then and I'm impressed now by your commitment to an education system that prepares students for the—and gives students the skills necessary to compete in a global economy.

We talked about democracy. The last time I was with the President, he assured me and assured the people that were listening to the news conference that there would be free and fair elections in Pakistan in 2007. He renewed that commitment, because he under-

stands that the best way to defeat radicalism and extremism is to give people a chance to participate in the political process of a nation.

We talked about India in relations—and the President's relations with India. I was pleased to see that in Havana Prime Minister Singh and President Musharraf had another discussion. I think it's very important that the issue of Kashmir move forward and be resolved peacefully. And I appreciate your efforts, Mr. President.

We talked, of course, about Afghanistan. And President Musharraf and President Karzai and I will have dinner right here in the White House next week. And it's going to be an important discussion. It's going to be an important discussion because one of the most important avenues for peace is for Afghanistan to succeed. And it's in our mutual interests that we work together to help that country that's been devastated by war succeed. And so I'm looking forward to our trilateral discussion, Mr. President. It's going to be a good one, and it's going to be an interesting one. And it's an important discussion.

All in all, we've had yet another good meeting between people who are able to speak frankly with each other and people who share the common desire for our people to live in security and peace.

Welcome.

President Musharraf. Thank you very much. I would like to, first of all, express my gratitude and also on behalf of my entire delegation for the warmth and hospitality that we have received and many courtesies that are being extended to us since our arrival in the United States.

I had an excellent meeting with President Bush. We, first of all, reinforced our trust and confidence in each other. I trust President Bush, and I have total confidence in him that he desires well for Pakistan and for our region. And I trust him also that he's trying to do his best for bringing peace to the world. And I trust him also that he's trying to resolve the core issue of the Palestinian dispute.

We discussed the entire gambit of relations bilaterally between the United States and Pakistan and also in our region and on

international issues. Bilaterally, we reinforced our desire to have this relationship on a long-term basis, broad-based, and a strategic relationship. When we are talking of broad-based, whatever the President has said, it involves all aspects which we discussed. It has its political and diplomatic aspects, which we reinforced, and then our desire to fight terrorism and succeed against terrorism.

Other than that issue, in the social sector, on the economy, how whatever assistance is being given to us, whatever assistance we require, our requests on that—especially in the field of trade and investment, which are the main areas which we require assistance in—otherwise, on a broad-based level, assistance in the education and health sector, on the defense side, the F-16 deals. All this was discussed.

On the regional issues, on the international plain, we did discuss the core issue of the Palestinian dispute, which needs to be resolved, and being at the core. And I am extremely glad that the President has a desire and a will to resolve this Palestinian dispute. I wish him very well because that lies at the heart of all problems, even at the heart of terrorism and extremism.

On the regional side, in our region, we also discussed the rapprochement going on between Pakistan and India. And I proudly told the President that we had—I had an excellent meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Havana. And it was a step forward towards resolution of disputes between India and Pakistan. I did tell him on the way forward that we are moving on the Kashmir dispute especially.

Coming on the other side, we had an in-depth discussion on what is happening in Afghanistan and our tribal agency. They are—I explained to him whatever we are doing in the form of the peace treaty that we have just signed through a grand jirga, which is an assembly of elders.

This treaty is not to deal with the Taliban; it is actually to fight the Taliban. The misperception in the media, I did clarify to the President. And may I very briefly say—and what I explained to the President—that this is a holistic approach that we are taking to fighting terrorism in Pakistan, in the tribal

agencies of Pakistan. This is a political site of the holistic strategy—the holistic strategy being the military arm being used, a political element, an administrative element, and a reconstruction element.

So we want to move on all these aspects forward, confining myself to this deal. This deal is not at all with the Taliban; as I said, this is against the Taliban, actually. This deal is with the tribal elders of north Waziristan agency. And the deal has three bottom lines which we fixed for ourselves. And this is very important, which I explained to the President.

Number one: There will be no Al Qaida activity in our tribal agency or across the border in Afghanistan. There will be no Taliban activity in our tribal agency or across in Afghanistan. There will be no Talibanization, which is an obscurantist thoughts or way of life—no Talibanization. So all these three have been agreed by the tribal elders who signed that deal. And when they signed the deal, they are honorbound, and they have a very strict honor code to not only abide by it but also that whoever violates it they'll move against them.

So this is, in brief, the deal which I explained to the President. And I know that he's satisfied with that deal. And maybe this shows the light or the way forward for bringing peace to the region.

So this is what we discussed holistically. I would like to conclude by saying we had a total understanding of views between President Bush and myself. And as I said, we reinforced our trust and confidence in each other. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Good job.

Two questions apiece. Deb [Deb Riechmann, Associated Press].

Pakistan's Role in the War on Terror

Q. Mr. President, after 9/11, would the United States have actually attacked Pakistan if President Musharraf had not agreed to cooperate with the war on terrorism? He says that the United States was threatening to bomb his country back into the Stone Age.

And, President Musharraf, would Pakistan have given up its backing of the Taliban if this threat had not come from Armitage?

President Bush. First, let me—she’s asking about the Armitage thing. The first I’ve heard of this was when I read it in the newspaper today. You know, I was—I guess I was taken aback by the harshness of the words.

All I can tell you is, is that shortly after 9/11, Secretary Colin Powell came in and said, “President Musharraf understands the stakes, and he wants to join and help rout out an enemy that has come and killed 3,000 of our citizens.” As a matter of fact, my recollection was that one of the first leaders to step up and say that the stakes have changed, that attack on America that killed 3,000 of the citizens needs to be dealt with firmly, was the President. And if I’m not mistaken, Colin told us that, if not the night of September the 11th, shortly thereafter. Now, I need to make sure I get my facts straight, but it was soon.

I don’t know of any conversation that was reported in the newspaper like that. I just don’t know about it.

President Musharraf. I would like to—I am launching my book on the 25th, and I am honorbound to Simon and Schuster not to comment on the book before that day. [Laughter]

President Bush. In other words, buy the book, is what he’s saying. [Laughter]

Islam/Religious Freedom

Q. My question is for the U.S. President. Your Excellency, President Musharraf has issued a call for building bridges and promoting interfaith harmony between the West and the Islamic world, which is in upheaval and in complete turmoil. So your comments of Islamic fascists and then the comments of the Pope have inflamed the Islamic world. And my question is that—would you take the leading role, along with President Musharraf, to build these bridges and promote interfaith harmony to avert any wrong notion of class of civilizations, sir?

President Bush. I appreciate the President’s leadership in promoting harmony. There is unbelievable propaganda in the Middle East these days that try to inflame passion. The propagandists are attempting to create conditions where terror is justified. And so at my speech at the United Nations, I stood up and said loud and clear, America

respects Islam. And we do. We don’t respect people who kill in the name of Islam to achieve political objectives, like the terrorists do.

As a matter of fact, these extremists exploit propaganda in order to justify their behavior. All of us need to step up and talk about a world in which we respect each other’s religions. As a matter of fact, it’s very important for Muslims around the world to know, there’s a lot of Muslims living at peace here in the United States. They are proud Americans, and they’re equal to me as a citizen. We respect their religions.

I repeat to you, however, that the free world and the moderate world must stand up to these extremists and not let them spread their hateful propaganda, not let them try to incite people to acts of violence, because these extremists are not only against Western people, they’re also against moderate people. And the President is reaching out to help understand—the world to understand that the Muslim religion is a peaceful religion—is very important. And we can help, and we will help.

One way we can help is to work with the Palestinians and the Israelis to achieve peace. I’m the first President ever to have articulated a two-state solution. I believe a Palestinian state, as a democracy living side by side with Israel, will yield the peace. What’s important is for people to understand that in order to have that peace and that Palestinian state, people have got to recognize Israel’s right to exist in order for this to happen. You can’t ask people to negotiate with people who say you shouldn’t exist.

We will continue to give aid to people who suffer. We didn’t ask the question whether—you know, what was the nature of the religion of the people who suffered in Pakistan when we spent a half a billion dollars to help this President. We said, they’re suffering, and we want to help. And so we will continue to outreach.

It’s important, however, for people in the Middle East to reject the extremist propaganda that is spreading, in many cases, absolute lies about the intentions of the United States. They love to say this is a war against Islam; I can’t think of anything more false. These are moderate, reasonable people who

reject extremism in order for there to be peace. And so I'll work hard to do my part. Thank you for that question.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

**Usama bin Laden/Pakistan-U.S.
Cooperation in the War on Terror**

Q. Thank you, sir. There's been a back-and-forth this week over whether the U.S. needs permission to strike inside Pakistan if Usama bin Laden is located. Could each of you give your position on that? And did you—are you satisfied with his assurances on the tribal deal?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I appreciate the briefing on the tribal deal. When the President looks me in the eye and says, "The tribal deal is intended to reject the Talibanization of the people and that there won't be a Taliban and won't be Al Qaida," I believe him, you know. This is a person with whom I've now had close working relationships for 5½ years. And when he says, "If we find—when we find Usama bin Laden, he will be brought to justice," I believe him. And we'll let the tactics speak for themselves after it happens.

We're on the hunt together. It's in the President's interest that Al Qaida be brought to justice, and it's in our interest. And we collaborate and we strategize and we talk a lot about how best to do this.

Q. So you do have permission to go inside Pakistan?

President Bush. All I can tell you is, is that when Usama bin Laden is found, he will be brought to justice. And that's what we've continually discussed.

President Musharraf. May I add?

President Bush. Yes, please.

President Musharraf. I think, as the President said, we are on the hunt together against these people. Now why are we bothering—or how to—the semantics of the tactics of how to deal with the situation? We will deal with it. We are on the hunt together. You want the person—if at all we confront him, if at all we find out his location, we are quite clear what to do.

But let's not get involved in how it ought to be done, by whom it ought to be done. There's total coordination at the intelligence level between the two forces. There's coordi-

nation at the operational level, at the strategic level, even at the tactical level. So therefore, we are working together, and when the situation arises, we need to pick the right decision to strike. That's how I——

President Bush. You probably don't want to let them know what we're thinking about anyway, do we?

President Musharraf. And may I also say that we need to have—ladies and gentlemen here, we have the pieces of—a relationship is trust and confidence. Now, if we don't have that trust and confidence in each other, and we think that we are bluffing each other—I don't think that's a good way of moving forward, anyway.

Kashmir/Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, I have two-part question. And first, I must—[inaudible]—the remarks which you gave at the outset about President Musharraf. And second is, Mr. President, in Pakistan, we cherish the idea of having strategic and long partnership with United States of America. But we found that there is—a discriminate reality is being followed by your great country pertaining to the—[inaudible]—of the nuclear technology for the peaceful purpose. Pakistan needs energy, and we have been denied of that. Could you ensure us that this discrimination will come to an end after this great meeting with President Musharraf?

And the second part of my question, Mr. President, is that President Musharraf has been asking resolution of the problem of Palestine and Kashmir for the sustainable peace in the world, especially in this part of the world. Aren't you going to contemplate—are you contemplating some step to take, some initiative to resolve these two problems? And question for Mr. President is, is how far did——

President Musharraf. Three in one. [Laughter]

President Bush. If I ask him—then I'll remember yours.

Q. ——talk about these discussions with President Bush and the agenda, the item for which you are going to take up with the President of the United States, how far have you been successful? Thank you, sirs.

President Bush. Man, you represented the entire press corps there; that's good. [Laughter] We talked about energy, and we talked about our need to work through the recent history that we've had together on dealing with proliferation matters.

Secondly, in terms of Kashmir and Palestine, Kashmir issue will be solved when two leaders decide to solve it. And we want to help. The United States can't force nations to reach an agreement just because we want there to be an agreement. Lasting agreements occur when leaders of nations say, "Let's get the past behind us, and let's move forward."

I am encouraged by the meetings that the President and the Prime Minister of India have had. It is an indication that there is desire at the leadership level to solve this long-standing problem.

Leadership is also going to be required between Israel and Palestine. We, of course, can help and will help. But it's important for you to understand that we cannot impose peace. We can help create the conditions for peace to occur. We can lay out vision. We can talk to world leaders, and we do. We can provide aid to help institutional building so that a democracy can flourish.

But, ultimately, peace, long-standing peace depends upon the will of leaders. I'm impressed by this President's will to get something done in Kashmir. He and I have talked about this issue in the past. He has said he was going to reach out to the Prime Minister of India, and he has. And our hope is that this process continues forward.

I asked the President, just like I would ask the Prime Minister of India, what can we do to help. What would you like the United States to do to facilitate an agreement? Would you like us to get out of the way? Would you like us not to show up? Would you like us to be actively involved? How can we help you, if you so desire, achieve peace? And that's the role of the United States, as far as I'm concerned.

President Musharraf. Thank you. I think I've already answered. We've had far-reaching discussion encompassing bilateral issues, regional, and international. I think we have general consensus on all issues.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. Good job.

President Musharraf. Thank you.

President Bush. Buy the book. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:21 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sehba Musharraf, wife of President Musharraf; Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; and former Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Kenneth Wainstein To Be Assistant Attorney General for National Security at the Department of Justice *September 22, 2006*

I am pleased the Senate has confirmed Kenneth Wainstein as the first Assistant Attorney General for National Security at the Department of Justice. As head of this new division, Ken will bring together our national security, counterterrorism, counterespionage, and foreign intelligence surveillance litigation under one Assistant Attorney General. Ken is an effective leader, who will play an important role in our efforts to combat terrorism.

Ken's confirmation fulfills one of the critical recommendations of the WMD Commission and further strengthens our ability to protect all Americans.

I urge the Senate to give all my nominees a prompt up-or-down vote.

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.

September 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

September 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to New York City.

In the afternoon, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, the President had separate meetings with President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador, President Manuel Zelaya Rosales of Honduras, and President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a Republican National Committee reception.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to Ukraine to attend the commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the tragedy in Babyn Yar on September 27: Margaret Spellings (head of delegation); William B. Taylor, Jr.; Gregg Rickman; Fred S. Zeidman; and Vincent Obsitnik.

September 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the United Nations headquarters, he met with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He then met with Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of Bahrain, President of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In the afternoon, at the United Nations headquarters, the President participated in a roundtable discussion on democracy with other heads of state and leaders of non-governmental organizations.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to the White House on September 27.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark J. Warshawsky and Dana K. Bilyeu to be members of the Social Security Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation: Kay Kelley Arnold (Public Representative); Gary C. Bryner (Public Representative); Thomas Joseph Dodd (Public Representative); Hector E. Morales (Government Representative); John P. Salazar (Public Representative); Thomas

A. Shannon, Jr., (Government Representative); and Jack Vaughn (Public Representative).

The President announced his intention to designate Sylvester J. Schieber as Chairman of the Social Security Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to designate Jack Vaughn as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

September 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, he met with members of the U.S. mission to the United Nations. He then participated in an interview with Wolf Blitzer of CNN.

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

September 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. He then traveled to Tampa, FL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Zach Bonner.

Later in the morning, the President visited the NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers training facility.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Orlando, FL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Linda Feld.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Curtis S. Chin to be U.S. Director of the Asian Development Bank with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven R. Chealander to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board (Qualified).

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald Spogli to be Ambassador to San Marino.

The President announced his intention to nominate Craig Stapleton to be Ambassador to Monaco.

The President announced his intention to designate Paul J. Hutter as Acting General

Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

September 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in separate photo opportunities with 2006 National Spelling Bee champion Katharine “Kerry” Close and the 2006 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Stacey Walker and regional finalists Kelly Barefield, Alyse Eady, Montorie Lee, and David Shelly.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipients.

In the evening, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the musical drama “Asleep at the Wheel: A Ride With Bob.”

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 and flooding, including severe storms and flooding associated with Tropical Depression Ernesto, from August 29 to September 7.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

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

Submitted September 20

Kay Kelley Arnold, of Arkansas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2010 (re-appointment).

Dana K. Bilyeu, of Nevada, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2010, vice Gerald M. Shea, term expired.

Barbara Boxer, of California, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Gary C. Bryner, of Utah, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2008, vice Nancy Dorn, term expired.

Norman B. Coleman, of Minnesota, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Thomas Joseph Dodd, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2008, vice Nadine Hogan.

Cecil E. Floyd, of South Carolina, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Hector E. Morales, of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2010, vice Jose A. Fourquet, resigned.

John P. Salazar, of New Mexico, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2012, vice Anita Perez Ferguson.

Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2012, vice Roger Francisco Noriega.

Jack Vaughn, of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2012 (re-appointment).

Mark J. Warshawsky, of Maryland, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2012, vice Harold Daub, term expired.

Withdrawn September 20

Nadine Hogan, of Florida, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2008, vice Frank D. Yturria, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on January 24, 2005.

Nadine Hogan, of Florida, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2008 (reappointment), to which position she was appointed during the recess of the Senate from January 3, 2006, to January 18, 2006, which was sent to the Senate on February 10, 2006.

John E. Maupin, Jr., of Tennessee, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2010, vice Gerald M. Shea, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on September 6, 2005.

Submitted September 21

Steven R. Chealander, of Texas, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2007, vice Ellen G. Engleman, resigned.

Curtis S. Chin, of New York, to be U.S. Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Paul William Speltz.

Ronald Spogli, of California, to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of San Marino.

Craig Roberts Stapleton, of Connecticut, to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Monaco.

**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 September 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Council Senior Director for East Asian Affairs Dennis C. Wilder, National Security Council Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Daniel W. Fisk, and National Security Council Senior Director for African Affairs Cindy L. Courville on the President's bilateral meetings

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's annual report on the Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2007

Released September 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan Meghan O'Sullivan, National Security Council Senior Director for Democracy, Human Rights, and International Organizations Michael G. Kozak, and National Security Council Senior Director for European Affairs Judith A. Ansley on the President's bilateral meetings

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan

Fact sheet: Address to the UN General Assembly: A More Hopeful World Beyond Terror and Extremism

Released September 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser for Global Democracy Strategy Elliott Abrams on the President's bilateral meeting with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

1662

Administration of George W. Bush, 2006

Released September 21

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley

Released September 22

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 3534

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Virginia

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved September 22

S. 3534 / Public Law 109–281
YouthBuild Transfer Act