

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, September 10, 2007  
Volume 43—Number 36  
Pages 1163–1194

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**Editor's Note:** The President was in Sydney, Australia, on September 7, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## 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).

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Week Ending Friday, September 7, 2007

**Statement on Senator John W. Warner's Decision Not To Seek Reelection**

*August 31, 2007*

John Warner is one of the most dedicated Senators in American history. Five Presidents have relied on his steady judgment, wise counsel, and candid advice. With Senator Warner's retirement, the Senate will lose one of its most independent and widely respected voices, and the Commonwealth of Virginia will lose one of its fiercest advocates.

John Warner has served our country in many roles throughout his distinguished career, always putting the American people's needs first. He enlisted in the Navy shortly before his 18th birthday and chose to interrupt his law studies to commence a second tour of active military duty as an officer in the Marine Corps, volunteering for duty in Korea. He went on to practice law, serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and serve as Secretary of the Navy before his election to the Senate. Our military had no greater friend than Senator Warner during his service as chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Forces.

I look forward to working with Senator Warner in the coming months as we assess the situation in Iraq and pursue policies to keep our country safe.

John Warner is a true statesman. Laura and I wish Senator Warner, his wife, Jeanne, and the rest of his family all the best.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Presidential Determination on Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance With Respect to Montenegro**

*August 31, 2007*

Presidential Determination No. 2007-30

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Presidential Determination on Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance With Respect to Montenegro

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 2007 of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002, as amended (the "Act"), title II of Public Law 107-206 (22 U.S.C. 7421 *et seq.*), I hereby:

- Determine that Montenegro has entered into an agreement with the United States pursuant to Article 98 of the Rome Statute preventing the International Criminal Court from proceeding against U.S. personnel present in such country; and
- Waive the prohibition of section 2007(a) of the Act with respect to this country for as long as such agreement remains in force.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**The President's Radio Address**

*September 1, 2007*

Good morning. This week, I met with Housing Secretary Jackson and Treasury Secretary Paulson to discuss the economy and

the turbulence in our Nation's mortgage industry. The fundamentals of America's economy remain strong, but the mortgage industry is going through a period of adjustment. And some Americans are worried about the impact this is having on their ability to make their monthly mortgage payments.

I have made it a priority to help American homeowners navigate these financial challenges so that as many families as possible can stay in their homes. The Federal Government will not bail out lenders because that would only make a recurrence of the problem more likely. And it is not the Government's job to bail out speculators or those who made the decision to buy a home they knew they could never afford. But I support action at the Federal level that will help more American families keep their homes.

One important way to help homeowners during this time of housing market stress is for Congress to change a key part of the Federal Tax Code. Under current law, when a lender forgives part of a mortgage to help its customer stay afloat, that amount is treated as taxable income. When your home is losing value and your family is under financial stress, the last thing you need is to be hit with higher taxes. So I'm working with members of both parties to pass a bill that will protect homeowners from having to pay taxes on canceled mortgage debt.

Another important step we're taking for American homeowners is to modernize the Federal Housing Administration. The FHA is a Government Agency that provides mortgage insurance to borrowers through a network of private sector lenders. I've sent Congress important legislation that would help more Americans qualify for this insurance by lowering downpayment requirements, increasing loan limits, and providing more flexibility in pricing. By passing this legislation, Congress will allow the FHA to reach more families in need of our assistance, and I ask Congress to act quickly.

At the same time, we will launch a new FHA initiative called FHASecure. This initiative will help some people who have good credit but have recently been missing their payments. FHASecure will help these families refinance their mortgages so they can make their payments and keep their homes.

There are other ways we can help. My administration will launch a new Foreclosure Avoidance Initiative to help homeowners learn more about their refinancing options. I've directed Secretary Paulson and Secretary Jackson to look into innovative ways to bring together homeowners and counseling groups, financial professionals, and the FHA and Government-sponsored enterprises like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to help American families find the mortgage product that works best for them.

Finally, the Federal Government is working to make the mortgage industry more transparent and more reliable and more fair so we can reduce the likelihood that homeowners will face similar problems in the future. Federal banking regulators are strengthening lending standards and making mortgages easier to understand. My administration is working on new rules to help our consumers compare and shop for loans that meet their budgets and needs. We are committed to pursuing fraud and wrongdoing in the mortgage industry.

Homeownership has always been part of the American Dream. During my administration, we've achieved record homeownership rates. We'll continue to work hard to keep our housing market strong, to ensure that American families can afford the homes they buy, and to help bring the dignity and security that comes with homeownership to more of our citizens.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11 a.m. on August 31 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 1. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Statement on the Situation at the Crandall Canyon Mine in Huntington, Utah**

*September 1, 2007*

Since August 6, Americans have followed the fate of six miners trapped in a Utah mine. We have prayed for their safety, asked God

to comfort their families, and witnessed the unwavering commitment of their community. Our hearts broke when three brave rescue workers gave their own lives in the search for the missing miners.

The people of the central Utah mining community have inspired us all with their incredible strength and courage in the face of tremendous loss. Last night, a difficult decision was made to end the search. Laura and I are deeply saddened by this tragedy and continue to pray for the families of these men.

### **Remarks Following a Meeting With Iraqi Leaders at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq**

*September 3, 2007*

*[The President's remarks are joined in progress.]*

—as reinforcements. And together with the brave Iraqis, we've gone into Al Qaida strongholds and have driven them out.

Today, Anbar is a really different place. The level of violence is down; local governments are meeting again; police are more in control of the city streets; and normal life is returning. The people of this Province are seeing that standing up to the extremists is the path to a better life, that success is possible. And soon I'm going to meet with some of the leaders here in Anbar Province who have made a decision to reject violence and murder in return for moderation and peace.

I'm looking forward to hearing from the tribal leaders who led the fight against the terrorists and are now leading the effort to rebuild their communities. I'm going to speak with members of Anbar's Provincial council, which has reestablished itself and returned to the capital city of Ramadi. I'm going to reassure them that America does not abandon our friends, and America will not abandon the Iraqi people. That's the message all three of us bring.

Earlier, we just met with the leaders of Iraq's national Government: President Talabani and Prime Minister Maliki, Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih, Vice President Abd Al-Mahdi, Vice President Hashimi, and President Barzani of the Kurdish region. We

had a good, frank discussion. We share a common goal: a free Iraq that has a government that responds to the people. The Government they represent, of course, is based in Baghdad, but they're here in Anbar because they know the success of a free Iraq depends on the national Government's support from the bottom up. They know what I know, that when you have bottom-up reconciliation like you're seeing here in Anbar, it'll begin to translate into central Government action.

The national Government is sharing oil revenues with this Province, and that's a positive development. The challenges are great, and I understand the pace of progress is frustrating. It's frustrating for the American people; it's frustrating for the Iraqi people. These people are working under difficult circumstances after having lived under the thumb of a brutal tyrant. Iraq's local and national leaders are working to ensure that the military success in places like Anbar is quickly backed up by real improvements in the lives of ordinary Iraqis. That's what we discussed today. Secretary Gates, Secretary Rice, and I discussed with the Iraqi leaders that there has been some security success, and now it's important for government to follow up.

Our troops and diplomats and civilian experts will support the Iraqis in these efforts as they follow up. General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker gave us an update on how things are looking. They gave us an update on the way forward, and I was pleased with what I heard. The strategy we put into place earlier this year was designed to help the Iraqis improve their security so that political and economic progress could follow. And that is exactly the effect it is having in places like Anbar.

We can't take this progress for granted. Here in Anbar and across Iraq, Al Qaida and other enemies of freedom will continue to try to kill the innocent in order to impose their dark ideology. But General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker tell me if the kind of success we are now seeing continues, it will be possible to maintain the same level of security with fewer American forces. These two fine Americans will report to Congress next week, and I urge members of both

parties in Congress to listen to what they have to say. Congress shouldn't jump to conclusions until the general and the Ambassador report.

When you stand on the ground here in Anbar and hear from the people who live here, you can see what the future of Iraq can look like. That's why Members of Congress from both parties who have visited Iraq have come back encouraged by what they have seen. For all the differences over the war, we can agree on what's working. And we can agree that continuing this progress is vital to making the strategic interests—vital in meeting the strategic interests of our Nation. It's vital to bring in—it's vital that we work to bring America together behind a common vision for a more stable and more peaceful Middle East.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke between approximately 11 a.m. and 12 noon. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

### Remarks to United States Military Personnel at Al Asad Air Base

September 3, 2007

**The President.** Thank you all. General, thank you very much. It's an honor to be with you.

As you know, today is Labor Day back home—

**Audience members.** Hooah!

**President Bush.** —so I thought I'd come by to thank you for all your hard work.

**Audience members.** Hooah!

**President Bush.** Every day—every day, you show bravery under incredibly difficult circumstances. Every day, you're doing work on the sands of Anbar that is making it safer in the streets of America. And every day, the United States of America is grateful for what you're doing. I want you to tell your families the Commander in Chief stopped by to say hello, and he said, I'm incredibly proud to be the Commander in Chief of such a great group of men and women.

I'm keeping pretty good company, as you can see. I brought out the A team so they could be with the folks who are making a

significant difference in this war against these radicals and extremists. In Anbar, you're seeing firsthand the dramatic differences that can come when the Iraqis are more secure. In other words, you're seeing success.

You see, Sunnis who once fought side by side with Al Qaida against coalition troops now fighting side by side with coalition troops against Al Qaida. Anbar is a huge Province. It was once written off as lost. It is now one of the safest places in Iraq.

**Audience members.** Hooah!

**President Bush.** Because of your hard work, because of your bravery and sacrifice, you are denying Al Qaida a safe haven from which to plot and plan and carry out attacks against the United States of America. What you're doing here is making this country safer, and I thank you for your hard work.

**Audience members.** Hooah!

**President Bush.** The surge of operations that began in June is improving security throughout Iraq. These military successes are paving the way for the political reconciliation and economic progress the Iraqis need to transform their country. When Iraqis feel safe in their own homes and neighborhoods, they can focus their efforts on building a stable civil society with functioning government structures at the local and Provincial and national levels. And that's important because a free Iraq, an Iraq that's an ally against these extremists and murderers will be a major defeat for the terrorists.

Earlier today I met with some of the tribal sheiks here in Anbar. It was a really interesting meeting. And at the table were the leaders of the central Government as well. They told me that the kind of bottom-up progress that your efforts are bringing to Anbar is vital to the success and stability of a free Iraq. See, Iraqis need this stability to build a more peaceful future. And America needs this stability to prevent the chaos that allows the terrorists to set up bases from which they can plot and plan attacks on our homeland.

The very people that you helped the Iraqis defeat in Anbar swore allegiance to the man that ordered the attack on the United States of America. What happens here in Anbar matters to the security of the United States.

And so I thank you for your sacrifice. I thank you for volunteering in the face of danger. I thank you for your courage and your bravery. Every day you are successful here in Iraq draws nearer to the day when America can begin calling you and your fellow service men and women home.

But I want to tell you this about the decision—about my decision about troop levels. Those decisions will be based on a calm assessment by our military commanders on the conditions on the ground, not a nervous reaction by Washington politicians to poll results in the media.

**Audience members.** Hooah!

**President Bush.** In other words, when we begin to draw down troops from Iraq, it will be from a position of strength and success, not from a position of fear and failure. To do otherwise would embolden our enemies and make it more likely that they would attack us at home. If we let our enemies back us out of Iraq, we will more likely face them in America. If we don't want to hear their footsteps back home, we have to keep them on their heels over here. And that's exactly what you're doing, and America is safer for it.

In Anbar, you're doing this hard work every day. We've all come to say thank you. We've come to tell you, the American people are standing with you. They're grateful for your sacrifice. As Commander in Chief, I'm proud to be in your presence on this Labor Day. I ask for God's blessings on you and your family, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:43 p.m.

## **Proclamation 8174—Patriot Day, 2007**

*September 4, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

September 11, 2001, was a defining moment in American history. On that terrible day, our Nation saw the face of evil as 19 men barbarously attacked us and wantonly murdered people of many races, nationalities,

and creeds. On Patriot Day, we remember the innocent victims, and we pay tribute to the valiant firefighters, police officers, emergency personnel, and ordinary citizens who risked their lives so others might live.

After the attacks on 9/11, America resolved that we would go on the offense against our enemies, and we would not distinguish between the terrorists and those who harbor and support them. All Americans honor the selfless men and women of our Armed Forces, the dedicated members of our public safety, law enforcement, and intelligence communities, and the thousands of others who work hard each day to protect our country, secure our liberty, and prevent future attacks.

The spirit of our people is the source of America's strength, and 6 years ago, Americans came to the aid of neighbors in need. On Patriot Day, we pray for those who died and for their families. We volunteer to help others and demonstrate the continuing compassion of our citizens. On this solemn occasion, we rededicate ourselves to laying the foundation of peace with confidence in our mission and our free way of life.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2007, as Patriot Day. I call upon the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe Patriot Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and remembrance services, to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time to honor the innocent Americans and people from around the world who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United

States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:10 a.m., September 6, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 7.

**The President's News Conference  
With Prime Minister John Howard of  
Australia in Sydney, Australia**

*September 5, 2007*

**Prime Minister Howard.** Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to welcome the media to this news conference. I'll say a couple of words, invite the President to speak briefly, and then we'll take a couple of questions from each of the press groups.

It's always a great pleasure, George, to welcome you to Australia. The United States President is always welcome in our country. We have no closer alliance with any country in the world than we have with the United States. Both historically and contemporaneously, the importance of the alliance between the United States of America and Australia is deeply embedded in the minds of millions of Australians.

And you, Mr. President, and I have shared a number of very special experiences over the past few years. I remember our first personal meeting was on the 10th of September of 2001. And of course, as a consequence of that meeting and the events that horrifically followed the other day, the paths of our two countries have been parallel in so many ways, in the fight against terrorism and the promotion of democracy and freedom around the world. And in that context, as well as the more generic national context, I welcome you very warmly on a personal basis to my hometown of Sydney, Australia's largest city and, in my view, the most beautiful big city in the world.

But we had a very broad-ranging discussion. We talked extensively about Iraq, about the climate change aspects of APEC, the American perception towards conditions in

the Middle East and in relation to Iran, and also the prospects for something we both hope for, and that is a lasting settlement between Israel and the Palestinian people which does justice to the right of the Israelis to exist unmolested as a free and proud nation and also the right of the people of Palestine to have a homeland.

On a bilateral basis, we have agreed to a number of new arrangements, including a treaty relating to exchanges concerning defense equipment which effectively will remove layers of bureaucracy for defense industries in Australia acquiring American technology. And we'll enter that market on the same basis as do companies coming from the United Kingdom.

We also agreed on joint statements regarding climate change and energy, a joint nuclear energy action plan which involves cooperation on civil nuclear energy, including R&D, skills and technical training, and regulatory issues. Australia intends to participate in the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, and there will be great benefits in terms of access to nuclear technology and non-proliferation. And the United States will support Australian membership in the Generation IV International Forum, which involves R&D to develop safer and better nuclear reactors.

I'm also pleased to announce that we've entered arrangements that will allow something in the order of 15,000—we estimate—young Australians, who are students or graduates, to visit the United States on the basis of some kind of gap year in their studies, and that will be a facility available in the United States which is currently available and very widely utilized by young Australians in the United Kingdom and other European countries.

We have also agreed to have further detailed discussions involving taking our defense cooperation even further—and this involves four components to be explored. The first of those is enhanced cooperation on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. And that could, in fact, involve a stationing—basing in Australia by the United States equipment and stores and provisions that would be available for ready use in disaster relief in our immediate region. And we think in

particular of any repetition of the tsunami disaster or things of that kind which occurred a couple of years ago.

Secondly, a further enhancement of the joint training capability by providing additional support for training by American and Australian forces in Australia and also further cooperative efforts to develop access and capabilities for international surveillance and reconnaissance. And finally, a further enhancement of our already robust program of military exchanges and joint operations. We've asked our officials to work in more detail around each of those four headings, and as a result of that, I'm very confident that there will be further and very significant enhancement of an already very close relationship.

Can I just conclude by saying that in our discussions, I made it very clear to the President that our commitment to Iraq remains. Australian forces will remain at their present levels in Iraq not based on any calendar, but based on conditions in the ground, until we are satisfied that a further contribution to ensuring that the Iraqis can look after themselves cannot usefully be made by the Australian forces. They will not be reduced or withdrawn.

It may, over time, be that their role will assume greater elements of training or greater elements of other aspects of what their capabilities include, but their commitment, their level, and the basis on which they stay there in cooperation with other members of the coalition will not change under a government that I lead.

We believe that progress is being made in Iraq, difficult though it is. And we do not believe this is the time to be setting any proposals for a scaling down of Australian forces. We think that is objectionable on two grounds: Firstly, it misreads the needs of the Iraqi people; and secondly, at the present time, a close ally and friend such as Australia should be providing the maximum presence and indication of support to our very close ally and friend in the person of the United States. That is our position, and I've made that very clear to the President in our discussions. And I make it very clear to you at this news conference.

George.

**President Bush.** Mr. Prime Minister, thanks for your hospitality. It's great to be here. You've been telling me how beautiful Sydney is. I now agree. Laura sends her very best to you and Janette, and we congratulate you on, like, your grandfatherhood. [Laughter]

**Prime Minister Howard.** Thank you.

**President Bush.** I admire your vision; I admire your courage. One thing that's really important when it comes to international diplomacy is when a leader tells you something, he means it. And the thing I appreciate about dealing with Prime Minister Howard is that, one, you know where he stands; you don't have to try to read nuance into his words. And then when he tells you something, he stands by his word. And I thank you for that. I appreciate as well our personal friendship. I'm looking forward for you to buy me lunch today. I'm a meat guy. [Laughter]

**Prime Minister Howard.** We know that. [Laughter]

**President Bush.** I'm looking forward to some Australian beef.

We did sign a treaty today that was important. It's the U.S.-Australia Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty. And I think John put it best: It helps cut through the bureaucracy so that we can transform our forces better, share technology better, and frankly, enable our private sectors to work together to develop new defense capabilities to defend ourselves. And it is an important treaty. It took a while to get here, but it's—we were able to get it done. And I thank you for giving me a chance to sign it here.

We spent a lot of time talking about Iraq and Afghanistan. As I told John, we're in the midst of an ideological struggle against people who use murder as a weapon to achieve their vision. Some people see that; some people don't see it. Some people view these folks as just kind of isolated killers who may show up or may not show up. I happen to view them as people with an objective, and their objective is to spread a vision that is opposite of the vision that we share.

There are two theaters in this war on terror. They're evident. One is Afghanistan; the other is Iraq. These are both theaters of the same war. And the fundamental question is, is it worth it to be there, and can we succeed?

And the definition of success are countries that can govern themselves, sustain themselves, defend themselves, listen to the people, and serve as allies in this war against extremists and murderers. And if I didn't think we could succeed, I wouldn't have our troops there. As the Commander in Chief of our military, I cannot commit U.S. troops into combat unless I'm convinced it's worth it—important to the security of the United States, and we can meet our objectives.

And as you know, I just came from Al Anbar Province in Iraq. This is a Province that some 6 months ago, or 8 months ago had been written off by the experts as lost to Al Qaida. The people that presumably had taken over Anbar have sworn allegiance to the very same bunch that caused 19 killers to come and kill nearly 3,000 of our citizens. And the experts had said, "Well, Anbar is gone; Al Qaida will have the safe haven that they have said they want." By the way, a safe haven for Al Qaida anywhere is dangerous to those of us who believe in democracy and freedom. That's one of the lessons of September the 11th.

The Province I saw wasn't lost to the extremists. The place I went had changed dramatically—fundamentally because the local people took a look at what Al Qaida stands for and said, "We're not interested in death, destruction. We don't want to be associated with people who murder the innocent to achieve their objectives. We want something different for our children." And as a result of our alliance with these folks, we're now hunting down Al Qaida in this Province. And the same thing has taken place across Iraq. The security situation is changing. That's the briefing I received from David Petraeus, our general on the ground, General David Petraeus.

He says the security situation is changing so that reconciliation can take place. There are two types of reconciliation, one from the bottom up. I met with sheiks that are tired of the violence. They're reconciling. They're reconciling after decades of tyranny. They're reconciling after having lived under a dictator who divided society in order to be able to sustain his power.

At the national level there is reconciliation, but not nearly as fast as some would like.

By the way, people who don't believe we should be in Iraq in the first place, there's no political reconciliation that can take place to justify your opinion. If you don't think Iraq is important, if you don't think it matters what the society looks like there, then there's not enough amount of reconciliation that will cause people to say, "Great, it's working." If you believe, like I believe, that the security of the United States and the peace of the world depend upon a democracy in the Middle East and Iraq, then you can see progress. And I'm seeing it.

Is it perfect? Absolutely not. Is there more work to be done? You bet there is. But the fact that their legislature passed 60 pieces of legislation, I thought, is illustrative of a government that's beginning to work. It's more than our Legislature passed. They got a budget out. We're still working on our budget, Mr. Prime Minister.

Do they need an oil law? You bet they need an oil law. Why? Because it will be part of saying to Sunnis, Shi'a, and Kurd alike, the oil belongs to the people. It's a way to unify the country. On the other hand, they are distributing revenues from the central Government. In Anbar Province, they have distributed 107 million this year, about 96 million last year. There's only one place they could have gotten the revenue from: their oil resources. So there is distribution taking place in spite of the fact there's not a law. They got a budgeting process that's funding their military. In other words, there is a functioning government.

Again, I repeat: There's plenty of work to be done. There's more work to be done, but reconciliation is taking place. And it's important, in my judgment, for the security of America, or for the security of Australia, that we hang in there with the Iraqis and help them. If this is an ideological struggle, one way to defeat an ideology of hate is with an ideology of hope, and that is societies based upon liberty. And that's what's happening. And it's historic work, Mr. Prime Minister, and it's important work. And I appreciate the contribution that the Australians have made. You've got a great military, full of decent people. And you ought to be proud of them. And I know the Australian people are.

The same work goes on in Afghanistan. The degree of difficulty is just about the same. After all, this is a society trying to recover from a brutal reign. But it's the same principles involved, and that is to help them have their style democracy flourish. And it's happening in Afghanistan. People who have been to Kabul will tell you it's dramatically different than what it was like when we first liberated Afghanistan.

I believe that when the final chapters of the 21st century are written, people will say, "We appreciate the courage and sacrifice made by our respective countries in laying the foundation for peace."

It's interesting we're having APEC here in Australia. And the Prime Minister and I, of course, will be sitting at the table with the Prime Minister of Japan. Sixty years ago, we fought the Japanese. We've got a great relationship—I'm sure much is going to be made of, well, do personalities define the relationship? Well, this relationship has been forged based upon values and doing hard work together. Personalities matter. It helps that he and I are friends, by the way, in terms of the alliance. But the alliance is bigger than the individuals. Our alliance has been forged in battle and in friendship and through trade. And yet we're sitting down with the former enemy, which ought to be an historical lesson of what can happen when liberty takes root in certain societies. And of course, we'll be talking about the peace. We talk about North Korea; we're talking about Asia; we talk about we can work together to achieve peace.

We are talking about trade here at the APEC summit that the Prime Minister is ably leading. I happen to believe trade is important. I think the free trade agreement between Australia and the United States has been beneficial to both our peoples. Trade is up. When trade is up, it means commerce is up; goods and services are flowing more freely. It means people are more likely to make a living. And by the way, when you're trading with somebody, you want their economy to be good. And I congratulate you on having such a strong economy. That's important for our trading partners to be wealthy enough to have something to trade. [*Laughter*]

And so the question is, can we advance the Doha round here at the APEC? And I believe we can. I want to thank you for your able leadership. It's a hard issue to get done, but I believe with will and determination, we can get it done. And as I'll say in the speech here Friday, we'll show flexibility when it comes to making sure this round is as successful as possible.

I am looking forward to speaking out about Burma at the APEC conference. It's inexcusable that we've got this kind of tyrannical behavior in Asia. It's inexcusable that people who march for freedom are then treated by a repressive state. And those of us who live in comfort of a free society need to speak out about these kind of human rights abuses.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, I hope you don't mind me speaking as clearly as I possibly can about the fate of Aung San Suu Kyi and her friends and average citizens who simply want the same thing we have: to live in a free society.

I do want to thank you very much for your leadership on climate change. Now, I know some say, "Well, since he's against Kyoto, he doesn't care about the climate change." That's urban legend that is preposterous. As a matter of fact, the United States last year reduced overall greenhouse gas emissions and grew our economy at the same time. In other, we showed what is possible when you deploy modern technologies that enable you to achieve economic growth so your people can work and, at the same time, become less dependent on foreign sources of oil and, at the same time, be good stewards of the environment.

So I appreciate you bringing up the nuclear power initiative. If you truly care about greenhouse gases, then you'll support nuclear power. If you believe that greenhouse gases are a priority, like a lot of us—if we take the issue seriously, if you take the issue seriously, like I do and John does, then you should be supportive of nuclear power. After all, nuclear power enables you to generate electricity without any greenhouse gases. Anyway, your leadership at APEC has been really strong.

And I'm looking forward to my discussions with the leader of China about a lot of issues, one of which, of course, will be climate

change. And my attitude is—as I explained to you—is that in order for there to be an effective climate change policy, China needs to be at the table. In order to get China at the table, they have to be a part of defining the goals. Once we can get people to define the goals, then we can encourage people to define the tactics necessary to achieve the goals. I believe this strategy is going to be a lot more effective than trying us—people—countries to say, this is what you've got to do; we're telling you how to behave—as opposed to, why don't we work together to achieve a common consensus on being good stewards of the environment. APEC is a good forum to do this. You provided great leadership on the issue, and I appreciate it.

We'll take some questions.

**Prime Minister Howard.** We'll start with the American—

**President Bush.** Good. Bret Baier [FOX News].

#### ***Threats to National Security/China-U.S. Relations/North Korea***

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. You've described the U.S. relationship with China as complex. U.S. military sources are now confirming that Chinese hackers hacked into the computers at the Pentagon in June, hackers linked to the Government in Beijing. And it's being described as a complicated cyber attack. Have you been briefed on this attack? How much more complex does this make the relationship with China? And do you plan to bring it up with President Hu Jintao on Thursday?

**President Bush.** I'm very aware that a lot of our systems are vulnerable to cyber attack from a variety of places. And therefore, the first question should be—not to put questions in your mouth, Bret, but—what are you doing to defend America against cyber attack? Are you aware that we have vulnerabilities, that people can hack into sensitive systems? And are you then providing expertise and technology necessary to defend? And the answer is, yes. We understand that we're vulnerable in some systems—some, by the way, more valuable than others, or less valuable than others, I guess, is the best way to put it.

In terms of whether or not I'll bring this up to countries that we suspect may—from which there may have been an attack, I may. In this instance, I don't have the intelligence at my fingertips right now. Whether it be this issue or issues like intellectual property rights, I mean, if you have a relationship with a country, then you've got to respect the country's systems and knowledge base. And that's what we expect from people with whom we trade.

Our relationship with China is complex. On the one hand, we appreciate the opportunity to trade goods and services. We certainly hope that China changes from a saving society to a consuming society. Right now, because of the lack of a safety net, many Chinese save for what we call a rainy day. What we want is the Government to provide more of a safety net so they start buying more U.S. and Australian products. We want there to be a—the middle class to feel comfortable coming into the marketplace, the global marketplace, so that our producers can see the benefits directly with trade with China.

By the way, our exports to China are up, Mr. Prime Minister, which is positive. We still have got a huge trade deficit with China, which then causes us to want to work with them to adjust—to let their currency float. We think that would be helpful in terms of adjusting trade balances.

We've got great relations with China from a diplomatic perspective. In other words, we're able to talk with them openly and candidly. But do we agree on every issue—not at all. I mean, for example, I've spent time talking about dissidents who have been jailed. I'm concerned about the treatment of the Dalai Lama. I want China to be more aggressive when it comes to Iran. I'm interested to hear President Hu Jintao's attitudes toward the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. In other words, there's a lot of issues which we wish they would have a different lean to their policy, so I'm going to discuss these with him. But it's best to be able to discuss these issues in an environment that is frank and open and friendly, as opposed to one in which there's tension and suspicion.

And so when I say we've got great relations, I will sit down with the President and have a good, honest, candid discussion. And

he's going to tell me what's on his mind, and I'm darned sure going to tell him what's on my mind.

One area where we are making good progress is on North Korea. As you may remember, I shifted the whole strategic approach to North Korea. I'm convinced that it's more effective to have five countries to say to North Korea the same thing than just one country, so that if North Korea makes the decision not to honor their word, that there's a better chance that there's consequences that they'll feel. And so as a result of getting China to the table on North Korea, the North Koreans are going to realize there is a lot more than one voice. And China has been instrumental in helping move this process forward. Chris Hill—Ambassador Hill briefed me and Secretary Rice this morning on the fact that North Korea still looks like they're going to honor their agreement to disclose and to shut down their nuclear programs, which will be good for peace.

Anyway, a long answer because it's a complex relationship.

**Prime Minister Howard** Australian side. Mark [Mark Riley, Seven Network].

#### **Security for President Bush's Visit**

**Q.** Mr. President, welcome to Sydney.

**President Bush.** Thank you, sir.

**Q.** I can assure you it doesn't always look like this, with steel fences and concrete barricades and armed guards on the street. But I wonder, is the—

**President Bush.** I hope you feel safe.

**Q.** I feel—

**President Bush.** You feel inconvenienced, obviously.

Let me just say, before you get—you're trying to maybe get a response. But to the extent I've caused this, I apologize. Look, I don't want to come to a community and say, you know, what a pain it is to have the American President. Unfortunately, however, this is what the authorities thought was necessary to protect people. And you live in a free society. People feel like they want to protest—fine, they can. And unfortunately, evidently, some people may want to try to be violent in their protests. But I apologize to the Australian people if I've caused this inconvenience.

**Q.** Well, I wasn't going to blame you personally, sir. But anyway—

**President Bush.** I guess I must be feeling guilty; you know what I'm saying? [Laughter]

#### **Australian Elections**

**Q.** The point I was going to make is, as leader of the free world, the people of Sydney don't see their city looking all that free at the moment. And how's that going? We thought that we weren't going to allow terrorists to do this to our free society. And so your very positive view on Iraq and progress towards reconciliation there is of interest to us if you're meeting the opposition leader tomorrow, and his view is that there should be a staged withdrawal of troops from Iraq next year. How would that affect the positive view you put today? And what will you say to disavow him of that decision?

**President Bush.** First of all, in terms of whether Sydney is going to return to normal after I leave, or after we leave, I suspect it might, don't you? I don't think this is a permanent condition. I think the great freedom of the city of Sydney is going to return quite rapidly, which is different from other societies in the world.

First of all, I'm looking forward to meeting with the opposition leader. I believe I did that on my last trip here to Australia, if I'm not mistaken. And I hope we have an honest exchange of views. You just heard my opinion about Iraq and whether or not, one, we can win, and two, if it's necessary to win. I believe it's necessary, and I believe we can. And I'm looking forward to hearing his opinion.

I'm also wise enough not to prejudge the election results here in Australia. Yours is a slightly loaded question in trying to get me to comment about what it would be like to work with somebody who hasn't even been elected. And therefore, I'm going to let the Australian people express their opinion. My own judgment is, I wouldn't count the man out. As I recall, he's kind of like me; we both have run from behind and won. So that's going to be part of my—I can tell you, relations are great right now. I also, as I told you earlier, and I believe this, that our relationship is bigger than any individual in office. It's a relationship based upon values,

common values. It's also a relationship—it's enforced during tough times. When we fought fascism, we learned a lot about each other. And the American people have got great respect for Australians. Anyway, thank you.

Suzanne [Suzanne Malveaux, Cable News Network].

### ***U.S. Troop Levels in Iraq/Progress in Iraq***

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. Yesterday you said that General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker—if the kind of success we are now seeing continues, it will be possible to maintain the same level of security with fewer American forces. There are many who believe that you were suggesting you'd make an announcement to lower American troop levels. White House officials dismissed that. But later you were asked aboard Air Force One why it was that twice you mentioned troop levels that have piqued our interest, to which you said, "Maybe I was intending to do that." You pride yourself on being a straight shooter, not coy or cute, so what is it at this time?

**President Bush.** Surely not cute; I agree. [Laughter] Whatever you do, don't cause me—call me cute, okay?

**Q.** Okay. So is the administration at this time trying to play it both ways by appeasing the critics, suggesting that troop withdrawal is right around the corner, at the same time making no real commitments?

**President Bush.** Suzanne, I think I went on to say on Air Force One, if I recall, somewhere between Baghdad and Sydney, that, why don't we all just wait and see what David Petraeus says when he comes—General Petraeus, when he comes back to America. He and Ambassador Crocker are going to come back, and they're going to report to me and report to the Congress and the American people about their recommendations on the way forward. I will then take their recommendations into account as I develop the strategy necessary to win in Iraq.

That's what I'm interested in. I'm not interested in artificial timetables or dates of withdrawal; I'm interested in achieving objective. I repeat: If you think it's not important that we're there, then you're going to

find excuses to get out. If you think it is important to be there, then you ought to be thinking about ways to achieve our objectives. And we are achieving our objectives.

And so I was being as candid as I could with the people on the airplane. And what I said in Baghdad was exactly what they told me: that if conditions still improve, security conditions still improve the way they have been improving, is that we may be able to provide the same security with fewer troops. And whether or not that's the part of the policy I announce to the Nation when I get back from this trip, after the Congress has been briefed on David Petraeus and Ryan Crocker—why don't we see what they say—and then I'll let you know what our position is and what our strategy is.

**Prime Minister Howard.** Dennis [Dennis Shanahan, The Australian].

### ***Environment/Alternative Fuel Sources/Trade Relations***

**Q.** Mr. President, John Howard put climate change at the center of this APEC meeting. Haven't you undermined his attempt to establish aspirational goals here by scheduling your own meeting in Washington? And to what extent do you regard ratification of Kyoto as being relevant to addressing climate change?

**President Bush.** Let me start with the latter. Since I'm getting older, you may have to repeat the first part of the question. Kyoto may work for other countries. It may have made sense for certain countries that ratified it; it just didn't make sense for the United States. And so therefore, I told the truth. And by the way, prior to my arrival in Washington, the United States Senate was given a chance to express their approval or disapproval of whether or not Kyoto made sense to the United States. There was a 95-to-nothing vote against Kyoto. So it's just not my opinion; there's a lot of people who thought Kyoto wasn't the way to go.

So we developed a different approach: energy efficiency standards based upon new technologies. And as I told you, we reduced greenhouse gases in America last year, and our economy grew at 3 percent. I don't know if many countries can make that claim, but

we can because our strategy of putting new technologies in place is working.

I happen to believe that we can do a better job of becoming less dependent on foreign oil. As an energy exporter, that might kind of frighten some of the energy exporters. But we've got to reduce our dependency on oil, and therefore, have put forth what's called a 20-in-10 program. Over the next 10 years, we will reduce our gasoline consumption by 20 percent by using ethanol and other new technologies. I believe battery technology is going to be coming on so that people in Sydney can drive the first 40 miles in their cars on battery without your car looking like a golf cart.

There's new technologies coming to market. And the fundamental question is, how to get them to market as quickly as possible? And Kyoto didn't do that as far as we were concerned. As a matter of fact, if you begin to take an assessment or inventory of countries that are actually meeting the Kyoto targets, I think you'll find that maybe a different approach makes sense. So the reason we rejected Kyoto is because it wouldn't have allowed us to do what we wanted to do, which is grow our economy, become less dependent on foreign oil, and be good stewards of the environment.

John and I have talked about his desire to put climate change at the forefront of APEC, and I was a strong supporter of that. I also reminded him that at the G-8, I took the message that said to our partners there that if you really want to really solve the global climate change issue, let's get everybody to the table. Let's make sure that countries such as China and India are at the table as we discuss the way forward. Otherwise, I suspect, if they feel like nations are going to cram down a solution down their throat and not give them a voice on how to achieve a common objective, they'll walk. And then you can't have effective global climate change if a nation like China is not involved.

I thought the Prime Minister did something smart in this protocol. He announced that we need to cut back on tariffs that prohibit the exportation of technologies that will enable China, for example, to burn coal in a cleaner way. They've protected their environmental industries. And he wants to tear

down those tariffs and barriers, and we support him strongly on this, so that technology is more likely to be able to flow from those of us who have it to those who don't.

And there are fundamental questions: How fast can we get effective technology to the market—coal sequestration technologies, nuclear spent fuel reprocessing technologies to the market? And once to the market, can we help developing nations acquire those technologies? Otherwise, it's an exercise that's not going to be effective.

I believe the strategy that we have laid forth is the most effective way to deal with this issue in a serious way. I also appreciate the fact that the Prime Minister is the one that brought the issue to focus and, two, is talking about energy dependency, energy efficiency standards, which is a part of the global climate mix. He shows that leadership on the issue, and I'm proud to be here talking about the issue.

**Prime Minister Howard.** Okay.

**President Bush.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:02 a.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. In his remarks, he referred to Janette Howard, wife of Prime Minister Howard; Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan; Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma; President Hu Jintao of China; Tenzin Gyatso, the Dalai Lama of Tibet; and Leader of the Opposition Kevin Rudd of Australia.

### **Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister John Howard of Australia on Climate Change and Energy**

*September 5, 2007*

1. Prime Minister Howard and President Bush agreed today on the importance of confronting the interlinked challenges of climate change, energy security and clean development.

2. Australia and the United States are committed to working together to find effective solutions. They are working to ensure that the energy on which both economies depend remains reliable, affordable and secure by

promoting efficiency and diversification of supply.

3. Australia and the United States have consistently championed the importance of practical action. The key to comprehensive global action on climate change is to ensure that measures to reduce emissions are consistent with economic growth, poverty alleviation and improvements in living standards.

4. Australia and the United States look forward to working actively and constructively with all countries at the UN Climate Change Conference in Indonesia in December, with a view to achieving a post-2012 agreement that provides for effective action from all the major emitting nations toward the UNFCCC objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The APEC Leaders' Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Sustainable Development will be a significant step forward in efforts to forge a new international framework.

5. Australia welcomed the initiative by the United States to launch a series of meetings on future global action on climate change and looks forward to participating in the first Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change in Washington DC on 27–28 September 2007. Both countries believe this process will make a major contribution to the negotiation of a post-2012 framework.

6. Both countries highlighted that a key objective of the Major Economies Meeting would be to work toward a consensus on a long-term global goal for reducing emissions. Such a goal will provide a basis for accelerated and concerted action at the national and international level over the coming years. It underlines the importance of viewing action on climate change with a long-term perspective.

7. Together with appropriate policy tools, the development and deployment of low emission technologies will be a key element in addressing the climate change challenge in the medium- to longer-term. The Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate is a major initiative that was founded by Australia and the United States

to drive technology cooperation. Working together, the six members—Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States—have made substantial progress since the establishment of the Partnership in Sydney in January 2006. The Partnership has initiated more than 100 practical projects in the areas of clean fossil energy, aluminum, coal mining, renewable energy, power generation, cement, buildings and appliances, and steel.

8. Both countries agree that reducing emissions from deforestation is a key component of global action on climate change. The United States welcomed Australia's action in launching the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate, announced by Prime Minister Howard in March 2007, and was pleased to participate in the recent High-Level Meeting in Sydney of 63 countries to take forward cooperation under the Initiative.

9. We also agreed to support multilateral action to liberalize trade in environmental goods and services.

10. Australia expressed its interest in participating in the Generation IV International Forum (GIF), which is a partnership of governments working on fourth generation nuclear power plant technology. The GIF reflects the common interest that many countries share in advanced research and development in this field. The United States expressed its support for Australian membership in the GIF.

11. In acknowledgment of the important contribution nuclear power can make in meeting energy needs and addressing the challenge of climate change, Australia and the United States agree on enhancing bilateral civilian nuclear cooperation and supporting the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). GNEP is a multilateral initiative the United States launched to expand the safe and secure use of zero-carbon emission nuclear energy worldwide. The United States welcomes Australia's participation in the Ministerial GNEP meeting to be held later this month in Vienna, Austria. The two countries also finalised a joint action plan for civil nuclear energy cooperation, including on research and development, regulatory issues, and skills and technical training.

12. Australia and the United States will continue to work closely to advance energy security and climate change issues internationally through other multilateral partnerships, including the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, the Methane to Markets Partnership, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership and the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy.

13. Important work has also been accomplished bilaterally under the auspices of the Australia-United States Climate Action Partnership and both countries are committed to further action. Progress has been made in the areas of climate change science and monitoring, agriculture and forestry, approaches to managing High Global Warming Potential Gases (synthetic greenhouse gases) and policy tools and approaches to addressing climate change.

14. We will also endeavor under the Montreal Protocol to ensure the recovery of the ozone layer to pre-1980 levels by accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs in a way that supports energy efficiency and climate change objectives. We will continue to exercise leadership in the development of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

15. The recently-concluded Australia-United States Agreement relating to Scientific and Technical Cooperation will promote collaboration between scientists in both countries on world-leading research and technology development, including in the area of climate change.

16. In recognition of the importance of global action on climate change and energy, the United States welcomes Australia's participation in the FutureGen International Partnership, a major United States-led international project aimed at building a prototype plant that integrates coal gasification and carbon capture and storage to produce electricity with near-zero emissions. This demonstrates and underscores the commitment of both countries to the development and deployment of clean coal technologies.

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

### **Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Prime Minister John Howard of Australia in Sydney**

*September 5, 2007*

Thank you. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your hospitality. Janette, thank you for joining us.

So the Prime Minister said, "Do you want to eat lunch with some of our finest citizens?" I said, "Sure." He said, "Fine, I'm going to introduce you to the Australian Defense Force folks." And I appreciate you having me. It's a nice barbecue you threw for us. Looking forward to a little cowboy music. [Laughter] But most of all, I've been looking forward to saying thanks for those who wear the uniform.

These are tough times. They're times I know that your families wonder whether or not it's worth it for you to be in the military. For those of you who have been to Iraq or Afghanistan—I saw this wounded man over here—you know that people wonder, is it worth it? Is it worth the sacrifice? And I told some folks today at a press conference, if it wasn't worth it for our own peace and security, I wouldn't put our own troops in.

I believe the work that you're doing alongside our forces is necessary for peace. I believe we are writing one of the great chapters in the history of liberty and peace. And the Prime Minister has given me a chance to thank you; so I want to thank you. You've got a fabulous military.

I talked to our folks all the time about what is it like to be side by side with the Aussies again. And they say, "It's a great honor and a privilege." And so thanks for being in the military. Thanks for representing your country. Thanks for making the sacrifice necessary for peace. The work you're doing is necessary work, and we're going to win. And we'll succeed. And when people look back at this chapter in the history of the world, they're going to say, "Thank God there were folks like you all."

So, Mr. Prime Minister, I'm honored to be with you. May God bless you all. May God bless our countries. Thanks for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. at Garden Island. In his remarks, he referred to Janette Howard, wife of Prime Minister Howard. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Howard.

**Statement on Senate Confirmation of James A. Nussle as Director of the Office of Management and Budget**

*September 5, 2007*

I thank the Senate for its strong bipartisan vote confirming Jim Nussle as Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Jim's confirmation comes at a critical time for our Nation's budget as Congress considers this year's annual spending bills. With less than a month until the new fiscal year begins, Congress has not sent any of the 12 appropriations bills to my desk. We must work together quickly to get the people's work done on time.

Jim is a strong advocate for fiscal discipline and pro-growth economic policies, and he will help lead efforts to balance the budget by 2012 by restraining Federal spending and keeping taxes low. And as OMB Director, he will work to provide transparency regarding Federal spending and earmarks, strong accountability in Government, and better results for taxpayers.

I congratulate Jim and his family on today's confirmation and thank him for his continued service to our Nation.

**Proclamation 8172—National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 2007**

*September 4, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Education is a fundamental part of achieving the American dream, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) help ensure that every student has the opportunity to pursue a quality education. During Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, we underscore our commitment to

these distinguished institutions in their efforts to provide more Americans with the tools to realize their dreams.

The founding of many of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities over a century ago expanded the American education system and extended the opportunity of a higher education to some who had been wrongly denied access. Today, HBCUs throughout our Nation continue to be centers of quality education, advancing opportunity and inspiring individuals to meet the challenges of our time as responsible leaders.

My Administration has increased Federal support for HBCUs and remains committed to strengthening these colleges and universities. The HBCU Capital Financing Program has provided access to funds for infrastructure repairs, educational equipment, and construction of new facilities. The President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities works to help HBCUs develop new partnerships with the private sector and benefit from Federal programs to strengthen and advance faculty development and cooperative research.

We will continue to provide our strong support to HBCUs, so that every citizen can enjoy a future of hope and opportunity, and we salute these great institutions as they build on a foundation of continued success for every student.

**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 9 through September 15, 2007, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in respect and appreciation for the contributions these valuable institutions and their graduates have made to our country.

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

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:09 a.m., September 6, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 7.

**Proclamation 8173—National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, 2007**  
*September 4, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

During this year's National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, we honor the thousands of victims who died in the brutal and ruthless attacks in New York City, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Our Nation remembers with gratitude the firefighters, police officers, first responders, and ordinary citizens who acted with courage and compassion to save the lives of others, and we pray for the families whose loved ones were taken from them.

Never forgetting that terrible day, we remain determined to bring our enemies to justice, defy the terrorists' ideology of hate, and work to make our world safer. We honor the members of our Armed Forces who died while taking the fight to our adversaries, and we are grateful for those who continue to protect our Nation and our way of life. Their courage, sacrifice, and dedication help preserve our freedom. We pray for their safety, for all those who love them, and for the peace we all seek.

We remain a hopeful America, inspired by the kindness and compassion of our citizens and our commitment to freedom and opportunity. During these days of prayer and remembrance, we reflect on all we have lost and take comfort in each other and in the grace and mercy of our Creator. May God guide us, give us strength and wisdom, and may He continue to bless our great country.

**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 Friday, Sep-

tember 7, through Sunday, September 9, 2007, as National Days of Prayer and Remembrance. I ask that the people of the United States and their places of worship mark these National Days of Prayer and Remembrance with memorial services, the ringing of bells, and evening candlelight remembrance vigils. I also invite the people of the world to share in these Days of Prayer and Remembrance.

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

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:09 a.m., September 6, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 7.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter**

*September 4, 2007*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, with a view to receiving advice and consent, the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (the "London Convention"), done in London on November 7, 1996. The Protocol was signed by the United States on March 31, 1998, and it entered into force on March 24, 2006.

The Protocol represents the culmination of a thorough and intensive effort to update and improve the London Convention. The London Convention governs the ocean dumping and incineration at sea of wastes and other matter and was a significant early step in international protection of the marine environment from pollution caused by these activities.

Although the Protocol and the London Convention share many features, the Protocol is designed to protect the marine environment more effectively. The Protocol moves from a structure of listing substances that may not be dumped to a “reverse list” approach, which prohibits ocean dumping of all wastes or other matter, except for a few specified wastes. This approach is combined with detailed criteria for environmental assessment of those materials that may be considered for dumping and potential dumping sites.

The Protocol would be implemented through amendments to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), which currently covers London Convention obligations. There will not be any substantive changes to existing practices in the United States, and no economic impact is expected from implementation of the Protocol. I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Protocol and give its advice and consent to ratification, with the declaration and understanding contained in Articles 3 and 10 respectively in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
September 4, 2007.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 6.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting  
an Amendment to the Convention on  
the Physical Protection of Nuclear  
Material**

*September 4, 2007*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (the “Amendment”). A conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear

Material, adopted on October 28, 1979, adopted the Amendment on July 8, 2005, at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the Department of State report on the Amendment. Legislation necessary to implement the Amendment will be submitted to the Congress separately.

The Amendment contains specific provisions to effect a coordinated international response to combating and preventing nuclear terrorism and ensuring global security. It will require each State Party to the Amendment to establish, implement, and maintain an appropriate physical protection regime applicable to nuclear material and nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes. The aims of the regime are to protect such material against theft or other unlawful taking, to locate and rapidly recover missing or stolen material, to protect such material and facilities against sabotage, and to mitigate or minimize the radiological consequences of sabotage. The Amendment also provides a framework for cooperation among States Parties directed at preventing nuclear terrorism and ensuring punishment of offenders; contains provisions for protecting sensitive physical protection information; and adds new criminal offenses that each State Party must make punishable by law. States Parties must also either submit for prosecution or extradite any person within their jurisdictions alleged to have committed one of the offenses defined in the Convention, as amended.

This Amendment is important in the campaign against international nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation. I recommend, therefore, that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Amendment, subject to the understandings described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
September 4, 2007.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 6.

## **Remarks Following a Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Sydney**

*September 6, 2007*

**President Bush.** The President and I just concluded a very constructive meeting. It was constructive because, one, we had a lot to talk about—a lot of interests that we want to work together on—and also because he’s an easy man to talk to. I’m very comfortable in my discussions with President Hu.

We talked about Iran and North Korea and Sudan. We talked about climate change and our desire to work together on climate change. We talked about our economic relations and our trade. And the President was quite articulate about product safety, and I appreciated his comments. We also talked about currency and exchange rates. And finally, I had a chance to share once again with the President my belief in religious freedom and religious liberty.

It was a constructive and cordial conversation. And once again, he extended an invitation to me and Laura and our family to come to the Olympics. And of course, I was anxious to accept.

So thank you, Mr. President.

**President Hu.** President Bush and I had a meeting in a candid and friendly atmosphere. We reviewed the new progress made in China-U.S. relations in the past few months. We discussed a number of issues in our bilateral relations. We both expressed a desire to work for further development and growth of the business and commercial sides between our two countries through dialog and consultations.

We also talked about climate change. We believe that the issue of climate change bears on the welfare of the whole humanity and sustainable development of the whole world. And this issue should be appropriately tackled through stronger international cooperation.

I also briefed the—President Bush on the latest developments in the situation across the Taiwan Straits. President Bush also explicitly stated the U.S. position, consistent U.S. position of opposing any changes to the status quo. We also discussed issues like the

nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, the Iranian nuclear issue, and Sudan—Darfur.

All in all, our talks have been sincere and cordial. I am committed to working together with President Bush to further advance our constructive and cooperative relations.

**President Bush.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:27 p.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. President Hu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## **Statement on the Death of Representative Paul Gillmor**

*September 6, 2007*

Congressman Paul Gillmor’s life was an extraordinary example to service and leadership. From working as an Air Force judge advocate during the Vietnam war to championing legislation in the halls of Congress, Paul devoted his career to strengthening his State and his nation. He was a good man and dedicated public servant who represented the people of Ohio with distinction for four decades. In Ohio, he served as president of the State senate for three general assemblies. In Washington, Paul was well respected for his leadership of a wide range of issues before the House Financial Services and Energy and Commerce Committees. We will always remain grateful for his service.

Laura and I are deeply saddened by his death. We pray for his wife, Karen, and their family.

## **Statement on the Death of Jennifer Blackburn Dunn**

*September 6, 2007*

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Jennifer Dunn. She was a good friend and compassionate leader. During her congressional career, Jennifer effectively promoted policies that enabled more people throughout our country to realize the American Dream. She was committed to reforming welfare, reducing taxes, and strengthening our health care system. She was a tireless advocate for free trade and worked to

eliminate the death tax, believing that leadership on these issues would foster growth and prosperity for small businesses and communities. As a member of the House Republican leadership, Jennifer used her position to help strengthen women's rights and protect children.

After leaving Congress, Jennifer continued to be a strong advocate of commonsense conservative values.

Jennifer was most proud of her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Keith, Bryant, Reagan, and Angus.

### **Statement on the Death of Luciano Pavarotti**

*September 6, 2007*

Luciano Pavarotti was one of the most accomplished and acclaimed opera singers of all time. From singing with his father in a small church choir near Modena, Italy, to performing in sold-out stadiums in America and all across the world, Pavarotti entertained audiences with his perfect pitch and charismatic interpretations. Both as a soloist and as part of the Three Tenors, he sold millions of records and won many prestigious awards.

Pavarotti was also a great humanitarian, using his magnificent talent to rally tremendous levels of support for victims of tragedies around the globe. His international vocal competition in Philadelphia and his school in Modena have encouraged and inspired generations of young artists to pursue their dreams.

Laura and I join Luciano Pavarotti's fans across the world in mourning his loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Pavarotti family.

### **Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah, 5768**

*September 6, 2007*

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

The sound of the Shofar heralds the beginning of a new year and a time of remembrance and renewal for the Jewish people.

During these holy days, men and women are called to reflect on their faith and to honor the blessings of creation.

The enduring traditions of Rosh Hashanah remind us of the deep values of faith and family that strengthen our Nation and help guide us each day. As Jewish people around the world come together to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, it is a chance to look to the new year with hope and faith.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a blessed Rosh Hashanah and shanah tovah.

**George W. Bush**

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

### **Remarks at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Summit in Sydney**

*September 7, 2007*

Good morning—or should I say g'day. [Laughter] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your introduction. Thank you for being such a fine host for the OPEC summit. I appreciate—APEC summit. [Laughter] He invited me to the OPEC summit next year—[laughter]—the APEC summit. I appreciate your friendship. I appreciate your leadership. They refer to the Prime Minister around here as a battler. I know why. He's courageous; he's wise; he's determined. America could ask for no better friend and more steadfast ally than Prime Minister John Howard.

I appreciate being back here in Australia, and I thank the people of Sydney for their gracious hospitality. The Prime Minister kept bragging about how beautiful Sydney is, and he's right. It's really a beautiful city, Mr. Prime Minister.

Yesterday I had the privilege of visiting the Australian National Maritime Museum, which houses the bell from a great American naval vessel called the USS *Canberra*. This is the only American ship ever commissioned in tribute to an ally's warship lost in battle. It was named by President Franklin Roosevelt to honor the men who gave their lives aboard the Australian ship *Canberra*, which was lost during the Second World War. The

bell is a powerful symbol of the enduring ties that bind our two nations. And I was proud to present it to Prime Minister Howard when he came to Washington to mark the 50th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty.

The ceremony took place on September the 10th, 2001. And as we stood together that morning, I know that I could never have imagined, I suspect the Prime Minister never could have imagined that in less than 24 hours, the United States of America would come under attack and that the ANZUS Treaty would be invoked for the first time. And in a matter of weeks, Australian and American troops would once again be fighting side by side in a global war to defend our freedom and our way of life.

Australia's response after 9/11 was swift and resolute—and this comes as no surprise to the American people. Our two nations have fought together in every major conflict of the past century. Australian Diggers have served alongside American GIs throughout the world. American troops are honored to fight beside such dedicated and courageous allies, and the American people are proud to call Australia a partner in the cause of peace and freedom.

You know, it says something that one of my nation's closest allies in the world is also the farthest from our shores. The United States and Australia are separated by geography—and a lot of it—but we're united by common values. We share a firm belief in democracy and free enterprise and the universal appeal of liberty. Our two nations are united by common interests. We seek an Asia-Pacific region that is growing in freedom and prosperity and peace. And we're determined to help this region become a place of hope where every man, woman, and child has a chance to achieve their God-given potential and to build a better life.

America's commitment to the Asia-Pacific region was forged in war and sealed in peace. You know, I recently went to the VFW—that's one of our finest veterans organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars—and I spoke to the folks there. In that audience today [that day]\* there were citizens who had been called out of their normal lives to

serve their country in a time of war. And they came to fight for freedom in the Pacific. Their courage spared millions from tyranny and laid the foundations for America's enduring presence in this region.

Today, our alliances with Australia, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines and our defense relationships with Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, and others in the region form the bedrock of America's engagement in the Asia-Pacific. These security relationships have helped keep the peace in this vital part of the world. They've created conditions that have allowed freedom to expand and markets to grow and commerce to flow and young democracies to gain in confidence. America is committed to the security of the Asia-Pacific region, and that commitment is unshakable.

The expansion of freedom and democracy in the Asia-Pacific region is one of the great stories of our time. At the end of World War II, Australia and New Zealand were the only democracies on this side of the Pacific. Now, some nearly 60 years later, we've witnessed Japan's transformation into a thriving free society; we've seen the triumph of democracy in the Philippines; we've seen democratic transitions in Taiwan and South Korea and Indonesia; we've seen the birth of a new democratic nation in East Timor.

The growth of these free societies in this part of the world has unleashed the talent and creativity of millions, and they're using that freedom to build a dynamic and hopeful Asia-Pacific region. Our challenge is to strengthen the forces of freedom and prosperity in this region. And one of the best ways to do so is through the expansion of trade and investment.

Today, APEC economies account for nearly half of all international trade. It's going to be amazing, John; we have that meeting tomorrow, and when you look around the table, one-half of all international trade will be represented by the leaders at that—at the table. The total trade in goods by APEC countries has grown a lot; it's grown by 300 percent since 1990. Investment in the region has grown by nearly 400 percent. The expansion of trade creates jobs. The expansion of investment creates opportunities for people on this side of the Pacific, and it opens up

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\* White House correction.

new markets for American workers and farmers and entrepreneurs. It is in the interest of the United States to liberalize trade and investment at every level—globally, regionally, and with individual nations.

I believe that the best way to open up markets is through the Doha round of trade negotiations. Doha represents a once-in-a-generation chance to open up markets and to help millions rise out of poverty. The United States is committed to seizing this opportunity, and we need partners in this region to help lead the effort. No single country can make Doha a success, but it is possible for a handful of countries that are unwilling to make the necessary contributions to bring Doha to a halt. As negotiations resume in Geneva, leaders in every country have to make tough decisions to reduce barriers to trade. We must focus on what we have to gain, not what we could lose. The United States has both the will and the flexibility to help conclude a successful Doha round, and we urge our APEC partners to join us in this vital effort.

As we work to liberalize trade and investment through Doha, the United States also supports the vision of a free trade area of the Asia-Pacific. This would be a free trade area that incorporates all APEC economies; it reduces barriers to trade and investment across the entire Asian-Pacific region. It's a bold idea. It's one, Mr. Prime Minister, that we will work hard to make a reality. And as we do so, we'll continue to foster our bilateral ties.

Today, the United States has free trade agreements in place with Australia—and by the way, Mr. Prime Minister, it's working for the benefit of both our countries. And I thank you for your leadership on that issue. We have free trade agreements with Singapore and Canada and Mexico and Chile, and recently we concluded free trade agreements with two more APEC countries: South Korea and Peru. The United States Congress needs to ratify these trade agreements, for the good of the United States and for the good of the world.

I urge the business leaders gathered here to help educate your people in your communities and your workplaces about the benefits of global trade. You have an obligation—if

you believe free trade makes sense, you have an obligation to help educate the people in your communities. I hope you understand this: The surest road to stagnation and instability is the path of isolation and protectionism. The only road to enduring prosperity and stability is through open markets and open trade.

As we work to expand trade and investment, we also got to address the challenges of energy security and global climate change. We need to harness the power of technology to help nations meet their growing energy needs in ways that improve the environment. We need to help people grow their economy and improve the environment, which we can do. It's possible to do so. And the best way to do so is the unleashing of new technologies.

Under Prime Minister Howard's leadership, APEC is holding its first major discussions on a practical set of priorities for cooperation on energy security and clean development and climate change. And, John, thanks for your leadership on this issue. We agree these issues must be addressed in an integrated way. The work we do here at APEC will make an important contribution to the global discussions in the U.N. about a new framework on energy security and climate change. Later this month, the United States will convene a series of meetings of the nations that produce the most greenhouse gas emissions, including nations with rapidly growing economies like India and China. We're going to work hard to reach an agreement by next year on a detailed plan for future action.

Here's my strategy: In order for there to be effective climate change policy, India and China need to be a part of the process. In order to get them in the process, they have to be included in setting international goals. And the process is beginning here at APEC.

I told you I believe technology is going to help solve our energy dependence issues here. I noticed you signed a significant contract with China. Obviously, you're not dependent on energy. *[Laughter]* We are—that would be energy from overseas. And so—and we take climate change seriously in America. Since I've been President, we've invested nearly \$12 billion in Government-sponsored

research in energy technology. I believe that's the proper use of taxpayers' money, to invest in serious research and development. And interestingly enough, the private sector is also responding in the United States. There's a lot of venture capital going into different forms and different styles and different types of energy, as well as the good policy when it comes—good investment when it comes to climate change.

As a result of our efforts, the United States' economy grew last year and we reduced greenhouse gas emissions. In other words, we're achieving our goal, and that is to be better stewards of the environment and, at the same time, grow our economy. We want our people working. We want people to have hope. I understand a prosperous society is a society which is going to be wealthy enough to make investments necessary to be good stewards of the environment. And that's precisely what's happening in the United States.

We're looking forward to working with the APEC nations to encourage their leadership to invest, just like they're doing here in Australia. We're looking forward to working with ways we can better share technology to encourage developing nations to become better stewards of the environment. And finally, we're working to protect our citizens from the threats and challenges that have emerged in this century.

Today, our nations are standing side by side in a great ideological struggle. In the struggle, the forces of moderation and reasonableness are contending with extremism and radicalism and fear. We're facing a new kind of war. It's a war in which extremists use the murder of the innocent to spread their ideology of hatred and repression—and we must stop them. For the sake of security and peace, those who sit at the table tomorrow must do everything we can to stop the radicals and the murderers.

The nations of the Asia-Pacific understand this threat all too well. You've experienced terrorist violence in your cities and on your streets. Violent Islamic extremists have killed the innocent in Bali and Jakarta and Manila and in other places. The leaders of Al Qaida have issued threats against Australia and Japan and South Korea. Yet for each attack that terrorists and extremists have carried out

in this part of the world, many others have been stopped—in places such as Singapore and Manila and cities here in Australia.

The fight against the terrorists in this region is one of the untold success stories in the war on terror, and the rest of the world could learn from the approach that has been taken in this region to fight the extremists.

The two most dangerous terrorist networks in this region are a group called Jemaah Islamiya, or JI, and a Filipino terrorist group called Abu Sayyaf. Both these groups have been associated with Al Qaida. JI terrorists have trained in Al Qaida's camps in Afghanistan. Al Qaida senior leaders have provided JI with significant funds—money that helped fund the 2002 bombing of a Bali nightclub, the 2003 bombing of a Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, and the 2004 bombing of Australia's Embassy in Indonesia. A senior JI leader and Al Qaida associate named Hambali also worked with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed on an Al Qaida plot to hijack an airplane and fly it into the Library Tower in Los Angeles, California. That plot was foiled with the help of Governments in this region. We thank you for helping us save countless lives of our citizens.

The other terrorist network is Abu Sayyaf. This is a group who received funding from Usama bin Laden's brother-in-law and other Middle East terrorist financiers. Abu Sayyaf was behind the 2001 kidnapping of 17 Filipinos and 3 Americans in the Philippines, one of whom they beheaded. They conducted a bombing in Zamboanga City that killed an American soldier and two Filipinos. Abu Sayyaf was behind the worst terrorist attack in the history of the Philippines—the 2004 bombing of a Manila ferry that killed more than a hundred people.

Nations in the Asia-Pacific understand the threat posed by these groups—and together we're following a clear strategy to defeat them: First, we must do everything we can to bring them to justice so they don't kill the innocent. Nations in the Asia-Pacific have arrested and killed key leaders and operatives in networks. In other words, they're following through with that first step of a strategy. In 2003, Hambali was captured, severing the main link between JI and Al Qaida. A few months ago, Indonesian forces tracked down

and captured JI's acting emir and JI's top military commander. In the Philippines, the country's military forces launched a campaign called Operation Ultimatum that is targeting Abu Sayyaf. In this operation they killed Abu Sayyaf's top leader; they found and killed his closest advisor and confidant.

Pressure keeps the terrorists on the run, and when on the run, we're safer. We must be determined; we must be focused; and we must not let up.

Second, nations in the Asia-Pacific are providing economic assistance to struggling communities where the terrorists operate. The reason we do this is we want to strengthen moderate leaders and give citizens in these communities alternatives to the path of radicalism and violence. For example, in Indonesia the Government is working with the United States to implement a \$157-million initiative to improve basic education in 1,500 public and private schools.

You know, when the tsunamis hit here in 2004, the United States and friends and allies responded quickly. We did so because we care deeply about the human condition. And that response should send a clear message that the forces of moderation are much more compassionate than the forces of radicalism and terror.

In the Philippines, the Government has worked with international donors to deliver aid to Muslim communities in the southern Philippines that the terrorists have exploited, where they're building roads and bridges and schools and health clinics and providing microcredit to local entrepreneurs. The whole purpose of this part of the strategy is to isolate the terrorists and extremists and to encourage the local population to join the fight against them.

Third, the nations in the Asia-Pacific are increasing regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Malaysia and the United States have established a regional counterterrorism training center in Kuala Lumpur. There are law enforcement training centers in Jakarta and Bangkok that are improving the capabilities of security forces from across this region. And last year, ASEAN nations concluded a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty that will improve the sharing of evidence in terrorist investigations. In

March, foreign ministers from across the region held a counterterrorism conference in Jakarta, where they discussed ways they can improve cooperation in the battle against terror.

Finally, nations in the Asia-Pacific are working to defeat the terrorists' hateful ideology. Prime Minister Lee of Singapore says this—and I quote—"the fight against terrorism is a long-term ideological struggle." I completely agree. We must bring the terrorists to justice. In the short term, the best way to protect our nations is to keep the pressure on them, is to share intelligence, is to talk a lot about where we may think they are and to keep our security forces pressuring them. But in the long term, the best way to bring peace is to defeat them in the battle of ideas.

Our enemies are followers of a violent and narrow ideology. They have a vision which is narrow because it despises freedom, it rejects tolerance, it crushes all dissent. And they have goals. They want to impose this ideology as far and wide as possible. I believe that in the interest of peace we must promote an alternative vision based upon human dignity and human liberty—a hopeful vision, a vision that is far stronger than the dark appeal of resentment and murder. And that's precisely what we're doing, and that's exactly what leaders here in the Asia-Pacific region are doing.

In Indonesia, President Yudhoyono hosted an interfaith dialog soon after taking office where he called on his fellow citizens to ensure that, quote, "the forces of light and reason and hope overpower the forces of darkness, despair, and violence." The head of the largest Muslim organization, Dr. Hasyim Muzadi, was one of the first Muslim leaders to visit Ground Zero in New York. And here's what he said: "There is no violence, cruelty, chaos, or viciousness on behalf of religion, including Islam."

In Malaysia, Prime Minister Badawi is working to promote what he calls "*Islam Hadhari*"—or "Civilization Islam." He's called on his fellow Malaysians to, quote, "show by example that a Muslim country can be modern and democratic and tolerant and economically competitive."

In the Philippines, President Arroyo has reached out to Muslim leaders and has called the Filipinos to oppose, quote, “terrorists who kill, bomb, and maim to enforce an ideology of evil.” A group of leading Filipino Islamic jurists issued a joint sermon declaring, quote, “Islam and terrorism stand on the opposite ends of the moral spectrum. Murder and the killing of innocent civilians in warfare is strictly forbidden.”

These and other efforts are making a difference. And there’s fertile ground to do so, because, you see, the vast majority of citizens in this region and around the world reject extremism. They want to live in peace. They want to live in freedom. And it’s in the interests of the United States to actively support these forces of moderation, and we will do so.

Freedom has transformed this region. If you really think about the past, it’s amazing what has transpired here. Freedom is transformative. Freedom is a powerful force. There’s more work to be done here. We must work for the day when the people of North Korea enjoy the same freedoms as the citizens of their democratic neighbors. We must press the regime in Burma to stop arresting and harassing and assaulting prodemocracy activists for organizing or participating in peaceful demonstrations. The Burmese regime must release these activists immediately. It must stop its intimidation of these citizens who are promoting democracy and human rights. It must release all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi.

We’ll continue to work with nations like Russia to advance our shared interests while encouraging Russia’s leaders to respect the checks and balances that are essential to democracy. We’ll encourage to work with China, but as we do so, we’ll never shy away from expressing our deepest-held values that each person has human dignity, and that we believe strongly in liberty. You know, China will be the host of the Olympic Games; I’m looking forward to going. And it’s going to be a great moment of pride for the Chinese people. It will also be a moment where China’s leaders can use this opportunity to show confidence by demonstrating a commitment to greater openness and tolerance.

And finally, we look forward to free and fair elections in Thailand.

APEC nations are supporting the advance of freedom in this region. Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore helped lead the effort to include democratic and human rights principles in the ASEAN Charter. Japan has incorporated democracy and governance programs into its official development assistance. South Korea hosted an historic gathering of the world’s free nations, the Community of Democracies summit. These are important steps—and now we must build on them by forging new regional institutions to encourage the continued expansion of freedom in this vital part of the world. And so this week, the United States is proposing the creation of a new Asia-Pacific democracy partnership. Through this partnership, free nations will work together to support democratic values, strengthen democratic institutions, and assist those who are working to build and sustain free societies across the Asia-Pacific region.

The lesson of freedom’s advance in the Asia-Pacific region is this: The desire for liberty is universal, written by our Creator into the hearts of every man, woman, and child. Whenever they’re given a chance, whenever they’re given an opportunity, the people of every culture and every religion choose freedom over oppression. In Asia, millions have been given this chance, and they built free societies that are sources of peace and prosperity. And now we must give that same chance to millions across the broader Middle East, who share the same desire for freedom that burns in the hearts of people of this region.

I want to thank the APEC nations who are standing with young democracies in the Middle East that are under assault by the terrorists and extremists. In Afghanistan, forces from Australia and Canada and South Korea and New Zealand and Singapore are helping the Afghan people build a free nation and stopping the Taliban and the Al Qaida from returning to intimidate the innocent. In Lebanon, forces from Indonesia and Malaysia and South Korea and China are serving as part of the United Nations force that’s helping bring stability to a free nation that is threatened by radical regimes and terrorist

violence. And in Iraq, personnel from Australia and Japan and South Korea are helping Iraq's democratically elected Government rebuild from the rubble of tyranny. We're working hard to stop Al Qaida from turning that country into a safe haven.

You may have heard, on my way down here I stopped in Iraq—stopped in Anbar Province. Anbar was an Al Qaida stronghold. Their leaders of Al Qaida had announced that they were going to establish a safe haven from which to launch further attacks on my nation—for starters. It was a part of Iraq that was dangerous, and the truth of the matter is, the a lot of the experts in my country had said was lost to Al Qaida.

I went there because Al Qaida has lost Anbar. The opposite happened. Anbar is a Sunni Province that once had people joining Al Qaida; they're now turning against Al Qaida. Why? Because people don't want to follow a dark vision. People want to live in hope. Moms around the world share the same deep desire, and that is for their children to grow up in peace and in hopeful societies.

And so the sheikhs there and the local folks turned against Al Qaida. And they asked for help, and we're giving it to them. And we're driving Al Qaida out of their strongholds. And we're giving people a chance to live in peace. And I was proud to go there.

By the way, the same security situation in Anbar is being replicated throughout parts of the country. By providing security we're creating conditions that allow people to reconcile. It's hard for people to come together after years of tyranny, particularly since the brutal dictator did all he could to divide society in order to stay in power. Those of us who live in the comfort of free societies—it's hard to imagine what it is like to recover—psychologically recover from life under a thug like Saddam Hussein. But that's what's happening. And they need time to do so. And they need the security necessary to do so.

We're giving this young democracy the chance. It's in our interest to do so because, as John Howard accurately noted when he went to thank the Australian troops there last year—here's what he said, he said, "If we leave before the job is done—if we leave Iraq

before the job is done, it would represent a devastating blow to the hopes of a stable future for the Middle East. It would embolden the Iranians. They would unsettle and destabilize the more moderate elements amongst the Arab states in the region, and it would represent a monumental victory for the cause of international terrorism." The Prime Minister says: "What Iraq and her people now need is time, not a timetable. They seek our patience, not political posturing. They require resolve, not our retreat."

We're going to succeed in Iraq. If given a chance, liberty will succeed every time and liberty will help yield the peace we need.

This is the calling of our time, by the way. This is what leaders have been called to do, is to be able to see over the horizon and envision a peaceful future. This is hard work we're doing, but it's the kind of work we've done before. We've done this kind of work in East Asia before. East Asia used to be a region of turmoil and danger, and today, it's a region of peace and hope and opportunity. With resolve and strength of conviction, the same thing will happen in the Middle East. And when they look back at this period, Mr. Prime Minister, they'll say: Job well done.

I'm honored to be here on the soil of an ally like Australia. We share values; we share vision; and we share resolve to not only protect our people but to spread the peace. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:05 a.m. at the Sydney Opera House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister John Howard of Australia; Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, senior Al Qaida leader responsible for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan, on March 1, 2003; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Zarkasih (also known as Mbah), acting emir, and Abu Dujana, military leader, Jemaah Islamiya terrorist organization, both captured on the island of Jakarta, Indonesia, on June 9.

### Remarks at a Luncheon With Southeast Asian Leaders in Sydney September 7, 2007

**President Bush.** Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for inviting me to join the ASEAN group. ASEAN represents our

fourth largest trading partner. In other words, this is a group of friends that represent more than just social acquaintances; you represent commerce and trade and prosperity. And I want to thank you very much for giving me a chance to come and talk to you about our common interests and common goals.

I invited the ASEAN leaders to Texas at their convenience. I'm looking forward to hosting you down there. I'm looking forward to continuing our constructive conversation on—whether it be democracy or fighting terror or expanding trade or avian flu or climate change.

I also am pleased to announce that we'll be naming an Ambassador to ASEAN, so that we can make sure that the ties we've established over the past years remain firmly entrenched.

So I appreciate your hospitality. It's good to be amongst friends. I enjoyed our candid conversation, and I thank you for your leadership in this important part of the world.

**Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore.** Thank you. Thank you very much.

**President Bush.** You bet. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:49 p.m. at the InterContinental Sydney.

### **Remarks Following a Meeting With President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea in Sydney**

*September 7, 2007*

**President Bush.** Mr. President, thank you for your time. As usual, we had a very friendly and frank discussion about important matters. We discussed our bilateral relations, which are very strong. And we thank you for your contributions to helping young democracies such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

But we spent a lot of time talking about the six-party talks and the progress that is being made in the six-party talks. I understand you're having a summit with the leader of North Korea, and I appreciate the fact that you will urge the North Korean leader to continue to adhere to the agreement that he made with us.

And in our discussions, I reaffirmed our Government's position that when the North Korean leader fully discloses and gets rid of his nuclear weapons programs, that we can achieve a new security arrangement in the Korean Peninsula, that we can have the peace that we all long for. You and I discussed the northeast peace and security agreement—arrangement, which we support.

And so I'm optimistic. There's still more work to be done. But nevertheless, Mr. President, when we have worked together, we have shown that it's possible to achieve the peace on the Korean Peninsula that the people long for.

So thank you, sir.

**President Roh.** As President Bush has stated, we had a very constructive discussion on six-party talks and the North Korean nuclear issue as well as other bilateral issues between our two countries.

Before we discussed these issues, I reaffirmed my support for President Bush and his policies and efforts in Iraq to bring peace. I also thanked the President for his efforts in the Visa Waiver Program—for his constructive position on this issue.

We both agreed on the positive outlook for the six-party talks. We believe that this progress is very meaningful. And I also thanked President Bush for his resolve to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian region, for making a strategic decision to bring peace to the region through dialog.

As is outlined in the 2005 September 19th joint statement, we have a plan for the peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, and President Bush also reaffirmed in November of last year in Vietnam of his willingness and his resolve to end the Korean war officially, once and for all. Today we revisited this issue. President Bush reaffirmed his determination to replace the current status in the Korean Peninsula with a permanent peace regime, and he stressed that he would be proceeding with this move after the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved.

We also share the view that should there be more progress in the six-party process, this will be followed by talks to initiate a

Northeast Asian regional security mechanism. I also reassured President Bush that the inter-Korean summit will underpin the progress at the six-party talks, that relations—the inter-Korean relations and the six-party talks should be a mutually reinforcing relationship.

I think I might be wrong—I think I did not hear President Bush mention the—a declaration to end the Korean war just now. Did you say so, President Bush?

**President Bush.** I said it's up to Kim Jong Il as to whether or not we're able to sign a peace treaty to end the Korean war. He's got to get rid of his weapons in a verifiable fashion. And we're making progress toward that goal. It's up to him.

**President Roh.** I believe that they are the same thing, Mr. President. If you could be a little bit clearer in your message, I think—

**President Bush.** I can't make it any more clear, Mr. President. We look forward to the day when we can end the Korean war. That will end—will happen when Kim Jong Il verifiably gets rid of his weapons programs and his weapons.

Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:29 p.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea. President Roh spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

### Remarks Following a Meeting With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Sydney

September 7, 2007

**President Putin.** First of all, I would like to say that I am very glad to have this opportunity to meet with the U.S. President within the framework of the APEC summit.

In the meeting we had today, I started with the words of gratitude for this fantastic and warm welcome which we enjoyed during our visit to Kennebunkport recently.

We have managed to cover all the matters on our bilateral agenda and the key international aspects too. First of all, about the missile defense—we have once again said that it is necessary that our experts meet

again very soon and make another trip to Azerbaijan to the Gabala radio location station. By saying this, we confirm that the process of our joint work on this—in this direction is underway.

We also discussed the—Russia's WTO accession plans. We hope that this work will end up with positive results and these endeavors will be continued on the expert level too.

We also discussed the Iranian nuclear issue. And I would like to say that Russia intends and is prepared to continue this work with our partners and colleagues within the framework of the IAEA and the United Nations. And I hope that a solution will be found for the benefits of the international community in general and the benefits of Iranian people in particular.

We also covered our economic relations. We discussed some particular large-scale economic projects, the implementation of which is to the interests of the business communities on both sides, in the U.S. and in Russia.

And we also discussed the environmental issues, in particular in connection with the forthcoming APEC summit. I should tell you that we have very close positions on these matters.

I would like to thank my colleague, the President of the United States, for a very constructive and open dialog, which we enjoyed today.

This gives me every hope to believe that further on the relations between the countries will continue to develop in the same positive mood.

Thank you.

**President Bush.** Vladimir, thanks. For a minute, I thought he brought up the Kennebunkport visit to remind me that he was the only one who caught the fish. But in fact, it was our—my family's great pleasure to welcome my friend the President of Russia to Mother and Dad's home.

I have nothing much more to add than what Vladimir said. We did discuss a variety of issues that are of importance to our respective countries, and I found the conversation to be cordial and constructive. We are results-oriented people. We want to help solve problems. And we recognize that we

can do better solving problems when we work together.

So I appreciate your time, appreciate your friendship, and appreciate the chance to dialog on important matters.

**President Putin.** And we also agreed that we will enjoy fishing not only in the United States but somewhere in Siberia very soon.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:51 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel at Circular Quay. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Statement on the Death of D. James Kennedy

*September 7, 2007*

Dr. D. James Kennedy was a man of great vision, faith, and integrity. Under his leadership, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church of Florida developed from a small group of worshipers in an elementary school cafeteria into one of America's most prominent congregations. Dr. Kennedy's message of love and hope inspired millions of Americans and others worldwide through the institutions he founded, including Coral Ridge Ministries, Knox Theological Seminary, and Westminster Academy. He was also a student of history and successful author who encouraged Americans of faith to exercise their democratic freedoms and put their values into practice. His legacy of grace and personal humility will continue to influence hearts and lives.

Laura and I pray for Anne, his wife of over 50 years, and the rest of the Kennedy family.

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### Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### September 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### September 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Al Asad Air Base in Iraq.

During the day, the President met with General David H. Petraeus, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, Admiral William J. Fallon, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Later, he met with Sunni tribal and Provincial leaders.

Also during the day, the President participated in separate interviews with CBS News and NBC News.

In the evening, the President traveled to Sydney, Australia, arriving the following evening. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with travel pool reporters.

### September 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced that he has nominated Gregory F. Jacob to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

The President announced that he has nominated Robert D. Jamison to be Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced that he has nominated James F. Moriarty to be Ambassador to Bangladesh.

The President announced that he has nominated Christopher A. Padilla to be Under Secretary for International Trade at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced that he has nominated Paula J. Dobriansky for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure as Special Envoy to Northern Ireland.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marc S. Goldman as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad: William C. Daroff; Jules Fleischer; Peter Hawryluk; Lee Seeman; and Lawrence E. Steinberg.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Jorge L. Arrizurieta; Craig Radford Barrett; Michael E. Campbell; Thomas J. Donohue; Anthony H. Gioia; William P. Hite; Kenneth I. Juster; Robert A. McDonald; Edward Joseph Perkins; and Robert Stallman.

The President announced his intention to appoint Arthur D. Collins, Jr., Leon Trammell, and Stephen R. Tritch as members of the President's Export Council.

The President announced his intention to designate Kerry N. Weems as Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at the Department of Health and Human Services.

### **September 5**

In the morning, at the InterContinental Sydney, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Garden Island, where, at the Royal Australia Navy Heritage Centre, he met with members of the Australian Defense Force. Later, he attended a musical performance by Felicity Urquhart. He then returned to the InterContinental Sydney.

During the day, the President toured Sydney Harbor with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia.

In the evening, the President traveled to Admiralty House, where, in the Drawing Room, he met with Governor General Philip Michael Jeffery of Australia. Later, in the Dining Room at Kirribilli House, he had dinner with Prime Minister Howard. He then returned to the InterContinental Sydney.

The President announced that he has named Barry Jackson as Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Joie A. Gregor as Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel.

### **September 6**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Premier's Room at the InterContinental Sydney, he met with Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd of Australia. He then visited the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Later in the morning, in the Fort Macquarie Room at the InterContinental Sydney, the President met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families.

The President announced that he has named Joel A. Scanlon as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Strategic Initiatives.

The President announced that he has named Dianna Campagna as Special Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary for the Office of the Counsel to the President.

### **September 7**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., to be Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of the Federal Emergency Management Agency at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Vincent Obsitnik to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Todd J. Zinser to be Inspector General at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to nominate Walter Lukken to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: John A. Garcia; Julia A. King; Thomas R. Miller; and Ann A. Pritzlaff.

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## Nominations Submitted to the Senate

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

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### **Submitted September 4 \***

Paula J. Dobriansky,  
of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as Special Envoy for Northern Ireland.

Gregory F. Jacob,  
of New Jersey, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, vice Howard Radzely.

Robert D. Jamison,  
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, Department of Homeland Security, vice George W. Foresman, resigned.

James Francis Moriarty,  
of Massachusetts, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Dan Mozena,  
of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Angola.

Louis John Nigro, Jr.,  
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chad.

Christopher A. Padilla,  
of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, vice Franklin L. Lavin, resigned.

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\* These nominations were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5.

Paul E. Simons,  
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

### **Withdrawn September 4 \***

Charles W. Grim,  
of Oklahoma, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, for the term of 4 years (re-appointment), which was sent to the Senate on May 21, 2007.

Scott A. Keller,  
of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Steven B. Nesmith, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

David Palmer,  
of Maryland, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2011, vice Cari M. Dominguez, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

### **Submitted September 6**

Stanley Thomas Anderson,  
of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, vice James D. Todd, retiring.

E. Duncan Getchell, Jr.,  
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice H. Emory Widener, Jr., retired.

Steve A. Matthews,  
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice William W. Wilkins, Jr., retired.

John A. Mendez,  
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California, vice David F. Levi, resigned.

### **Withdrawn September 6**

Mary O. Donohue,  
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York, vice

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\* These withdrawals were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5.

Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., retired, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

**Submitted September 7**

Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

Walter Lukken, of Indiana, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, vice Reuben Jeffery III.

Vincent Obsitnik, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic.

Todd J. Zinser, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Commerce, vice Johnnie E. Frazier, resigned.

**Withdrawn September 7**

Vincent Obsitnik, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia, which was sent to the Senate on July 25.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

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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.

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**Released September 5**

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino, Chairman of

the Council of Environmental Quality Jim Connaughton, and Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Dan Price

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on the situation in Lebanon

Fact sheet: U.S.-Australia Alliance: Steadfast and Growing

**Released September 6**

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino, Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Jeffrey, and Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Dan Price

Advance text of the President's remarks at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation business summit

Fact sheet: Strengthening the Forces of Freedom and Prosperity in the Asia-Pacific

**Released September 7**

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino, Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Jeffrey, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Dan Price, and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Chris Hill

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: President and Mrs. Bush's Participation in the 62d U.N. General Assembly

Fact sheet: United States Cooperation With Southeast Asia

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.