

Egypt, with Jordan, with Kuwait. We normalized our relation with Iran and with Syria also. So Iraqi Government is now going to play its role in the Arab world as one—a founder of the Arab League. And there is no—I think, no more—any kind of isolation of our Government.

We are doing our best for this agreement. That this agreement with the United States of America—I think we have—we had very good, important steps towards reaching to finalize this agreement. And we continue our struggle to—our efforts to reach—*inshallah*—very soon this agreement.

And again to thank—here I am again here to thank here our great friends President Bush and American great people for their sacrifice and their support for Iraqi people. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:43 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks in a Meeting With United Nations Security Council Permanent Representatives

June 25, 2008

The President. Mr. Ambassador—
Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad. Sir.

The President. —it's good to see you again.

Ambassador Khalilzad. It's good to see you.

The President. Thank you very much for bringing your colleagues from the United Nations Security Council. First, I want to thank you all very much for serving your respective countries. And thank you for being voices for peace and freedom.

We've had a really good discussion. We talked about a U.N. Security Council role for Darfur and Burma. We talked a little bit about Iran and how the United Nations Security Council is sending a focused message that the world really offers Iran a better way forward than isolation if they will verifiably suspend their enrichment programs.

And then we talked about Zimbabwe. Friday's elections, you know, appear to be a sham. You can't have free elections if a can-

didate is not allowed to campaign freely and his supporters aren't allowed to campaign without fear of intimidation. Yet the Mugabe Government has been intimidating the people on the ground in Zimbabwe. And this is an incredibly sad development.

I hope that the EU—I call—AU will, at their meeting this weekend, continue to highlight the illegitimacy of the elections, continue to remind the world that this election is not free and is not fair.

I want to thank very much the leaders in the region, those who have stepped up and spoke clearly. I appreciate them doing their—taking their responsibility seriously. And I want to thank the members here around the table of the United Nations Security Council for your strong Presidential statement. It was a powerful statement for fairness and decency and human dignity. And I suspect you'll still be dealing with this issue. And as you do, I hope you continue to speak with the same clarity that you spoke with last Monday.

People of Zimbabwe deserve better than what they're receiving now. People there want to express themselves at the ballot box, yet the Mugabe Government has refused to allow them to do so. This is not just, and it is wrong.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:31 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations; and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

Remarks at the Max M. Fisher National Republican Leadership Award Dinner in Livonia, Michigan

June 25, 2008

The President. Thank you. Please be seated. Thanks for the—

Audience member. We love you! [*Laughter*]

The President. Thank you for the warm welcome. I'm fresh in from Washington, bringing greetings from First Lady Laura Bush, who's done a fabulous job. And I'm so pleased to be back in Michigan. I've spent