

the fifties, saying, “Can you ever imagine a U.S. President and a Russian President sitting here and talking like friends,” you’d have said, “Of course not. How farfetched is that?”

That’s what I used as an example today as what is possible in the Middle East. And I think it is possible. All of us are going to have to work to achieve that goal.

*Mr. McDonald.* But you’re not very much into, sort of big, set peace summits to do that?

*The President.* Well, he’d better—the problem is, the American President, when he calls a summit, better get it right.

*Mr. McDonald.* He puts his personal reputation on the line.

*The President.* This doesn’t have nothing to do with reputation. It has everything to do with the consequences if it fails. It’s not the President—see, that’s the problem. It’s not all about the person. It’s about the people who live in the region. If a summit fails, if the President puts—lays it out there and nothing happens, generally the status—the followup is worse than the status quo. And that’s what Presidents must understand.

We’re dealing with people’s lives and expectations. And I think there’s a better way

to achieve—what we want is peace. Someday that may happen, don’t get me wrong. Someday you may say, “I remember when I talked to old Bush, and there he is, sitting there with a big summit.” But now is not the time for one. I’ve got a different strategy.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 3:07 p.m. in the library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Prime Minister Tony Blair and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw of the United Kingdom; Abu Zubaydah and Usama bin Laden, leaders of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

## Message on the Observance of the Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *April 4, 2002*

Today, as we mark the 34th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I join my fellow Americans in remembering Dr. King and renewing his call for equality and justice for all our citizens.

Dr. King was a man of deep faith who dedicated his life to a crucial and just cause that changed this Nation. He graciously and peacefully called for our country to abide by the principles of unity, equality, and ra-

cial justice for every citizen regardless of race, creed, or background. For too brief a time, our Nation benefited from his work, yet his dream lives on in the hearts of a new generation. I join all citizens in recognizing this important American and his legacy of freedom, equality, and justice for all.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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

## The President's Radio Address *April 6, 2002*

Good morning. This weekend, Laura and I are hosting the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and his family at our ranch in Crawford, Texas.

America has no better ally in our war against terrorism than Great Britain. Six months ago, when the United States launched military strikes against Al Qaida training camps and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, British forces were right by our side. And the success of Operation Enduring Freedom owes much to the strong support from allies like Great Britain. Yet, the war against terrorism is far from over. It will continue in Afghanistan and beyond.

The world has been brutally reminded these past 2 weeks of the price exacted by terror. Prime Minister Blair and I will spend much of our time this weekend discussing the tragic outbreak of violence in the Middle East. Across the world, people are grieving for Israelis and Palestinians who have lost their lives.

When an 18-year-old Palestinian girl is induced to blow herself up and in the process kills a 17-year-old Israeli girl, the future itself is dying—the future of the Palestinian people and the future of the Israeli people. The United States is strongly committed to finding a just settlement in the Middle East. That settlement must lead to two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

This goal can never be realized through terrorism. It can only be realized through a political process. Arab governments, the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinian people must recognize that suicide bombings are jeopardizing the very possibility of an independent Palestinian state. This

week, I called upon the Palestinian leadership to order an immediate and effective cease-fire and a crackdown on terrorist networks.

Israel, too, faces hard choices. America will always be a committed friend of Israel, and we recognize Israel's right to defend itself against terror. Yet, to lay the foundations of future peace, I've asked Israel to halt incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas and begin withdrawing from those cities it has recently occupied.

Next week, Secretary of State Powell will travel to the Middle East to seek broad international support for these principles and to work towards a cease-fire that will lead to a political settlement. I have no illusions about the difficulty of this mission. Yet, our determination is strong. We'll work closely with nations in the region and with close allies such as Great Britain to end this conflict and to begin an era of peace.

This could be a hopeful moment in the Middle East. A number of Arab leaders have endorsed a proposal that brings them closer than ever to recognizing Israel's right to exist. The United States is on record supporting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a Palestinian state. And Israel has recognized the goal of a Palestinian state.

I believe the region could write a new story of democracy and development and trade and join the progress of our times. Yet, progress requires an atmosphere of peace, and peace requires acts of leadership, not acts of terror.

Thank you for listening.