

Franks, USA, combatant commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dwight Brown, USA, U.S. Central Command; Amir Hamad bin

Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal

June 6, 2003

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome back. It's such an honor to have you here.

I have been most impressed by Jose's leadership style, his candor, and his honesty. And I appreciate very much his friendship. We have had a lot of dialogs over the past months. Of course, he welcomed me and others to the Azores. And I value his advice. He's a good, honest fellow who cares deeply about basic values. He cares deeply about peace and freedom. And I treasure my relationship with the Prime Minister.

I'm really glad you came. I want to thank you for being here. I look forward to a good, candid discussion today and a good lunch and, on behalf of the American people, welcome you back to the Oval Office.

Prime Minister Durao Barroso. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for this warm welcome. I believe that recent trials put our nations even closer. It was a great European that once said that no noble

things can be done without risks. You were able to take great risks in Iraq; we supported you.

Now you are taking great risks in the Middle East peace process. Let me congratulate you for that initiative, for reenergizing the peace process. I think the United States of America and Europe—Portugal being a European country—we have a lot to do together, and I am very much looking forward to this opportunity to discuss with you and, always with the spirit of friendship that exists between the Portuguese and the American people, discuss all these ideas.

And we'll stand by you, because I think that what you have been doing is really great achievement. We have won the war. Now we all have to win the peace. And I think that we are going to reach that goal.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

The President's Radio Address

June 7, 2003

Good morning. This week the House and Senate will be working on one of the most important issues facing Congress, improving Medicare to offer prescription drug coverage to American seniors. And on Wednesday I will travel to Chicago and talk about our responsibility to give seniors

more choices and better benefits, including help with the rising costs of prescription drugs.

We have a tremendous opportunity to reform Medicare and help our seniors. The budget I proposed and which the Congress passed provides \$400 billion in additional

funds over the next 10 years to strengthen and improve Medicare, so we have the resources to make reform work. We're also seeing a growing consensus, in both Houses of Congress and both parties, that our seniors need a strengthened Medicare system that includes prescription drug coverage. The time is right to make progress.

Our Nation has made a binding commitment to bring affordable health care to our seniors. We must honor that commitment by making sure Medicare stays current with the needs of today's seniors. When Medicare was launched 38 years ago, medicine focused on surgery and hospital stays, and that is mainly what Medicare covers. Today, doctors routinely treat their patients with prescription drugs, preventative care, and groundbreaking medical devices, but Medicare coverage has not kept pace with these changes. Our goal is to give seniors the best, most innovative care. This will require a strong, up-to-date Medicare system that relies on innovation and competition, not bureaucratic rules and regulations.

My views on Medicare are clear. First, those who like the Medicare system as it is should be able to stay just where they are and also receive prescription drug benefits.

Second, those who want more coverage for preventative care and other benefits should be able to choose from multiple health plans under an enhanced Medicare program. This option would be similar to the health care coverage available to every Federal employee. If that coverage is good enough for Members of Congress and Federal employees, it is good for our seniors.

Third, seniors who want the benefits of managed care plans, including prescription drug coverage, should be able to choose from a range of plans that best fit their personal needs.

And fourth, we must provide extra help for low-income seniors, so that all seniors will have the ability to choose the Medicare option that serves them best, and every senior will have the option of a prescription drug benefit.

In a Medicare system that reflects these principles, every senior in America would enjoy better benefits than they do today. And they would continue to benefit from the most important strength of American medicine, the ability to choose your own doctor. We want seniors and doctors, not Government bureaucrats, to be in charge of the important health care decisions.

Members of Congress are working hard on this issue, and I encourage their efforts. I also urge Americans to make their voices heard. If we work together, Congress will pass a strong Medicare bill, and our seniors will finally get the prescription drug benefits and choices they need and deserve.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:40 a.m. on June 6 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters June 9, 2003

The President. I just met with my Cabinet, had the opportunity to brief them about my trip overseas. I talked about the

visit to Poland and to Russia, where we've got good friends in both those countries, at least in terms of their leaders.