

I'm honored you all came. I hope you've enjoyed this as much as I have. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. in the Joyce Center at the University of Notre Dame. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C., president, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., president-elect, and

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus, University of Notre Dame; Gov. Mitch Daniels and State Attorney General Steve Carter of Indiana; Mayor Stephen J. Luecke of South Bend, IN; Mayor Jeffrey L. Rea of Mishawaka, IN; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; and President Bashar al-Asad of Syria.

The President's Radio Address *March 5, 2005*

Good morning. In the short time since I returned from my trip to Europe, the world has witnessed remarkable developments in the Middle East. In Lebanon, tens of thousands of people took to the streets in peaceful protest over the brutal assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri. For years, the Lebanese people have suffered from the aftermath of a horrific civil war and occupation by Syria. Lebanese citizens who have watched free elections in Iraq are now demanding the right to decide their own destiny, free of Syrian control and domination. Syria has been an occupying force in Lebanon for nearly three decades, and Syria's support for terrorism remains a key obstacle to peace in the broader Middle East.

Today, America and Europe are standing together with the Lebanese people. The United States and France worked closely to pass U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559. This resolution demands that Lebanon's sovereignty be respected, that all foreign forces be withdrawn, and that free and fair elections be conducted without foreign influence. The world is now speaking with one voice to ensure that democracy and freedom are given a chance to flourish in Lebanon.

French President Chirac, British Prime Minister Blair, and German Chancellor

Schroeder have all called on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. A Syrian withdrawal of all its military and intelligence personnel would help ensure that the Lebanese elections occur as scheduled in the spring and that they will be free and fair.

At the same time the Lebanese people were demonstrating against terrorism in Beirut, the elected leader of the Palestinian people, President Abbas, declared that his Government is committed to chasing down and punishing those responsible for last weekend's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. Such action is critical, because that attack is a reminder that there are still groups and individuals who will kill to prevent peace in the Middle East.

President Abbas made his remarks in London during an international meeting of world and Arab leaders hosted by Prime Minister Blair. The leaders attending this meeting expressed their support for the Palestinians' efforts to reform their political institutions, their economy, and their security services. And the first reform must be the dismantling of terrorist organizations. Only by ending terrorism can we achieve our common goal of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and freedom.

Today, people in a long-troubled part of the world are standing up for their freedom. In the last 5 months, we have witnessed successful elections in Afghanistan, the Palestinian Territory, and Iraq, peaceful demonstrations on the streets of Beirut, and steps toward democratic reform in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The trend is clear: In the Middle East and throughout the world, freedom is on the march. The road ahead will not be easy, and progress will sometimes be slow. But America, Europe, and our Arab partners must all continue the hard work of defeating terrorism and supporting democratic reforms.

Freedom is the birthright and deep desire of every human soul, and spreading freedom's blessings is the calling of our time. And when freedom and democracy

take root in the Middle East, America and the world will be safer and more peaceful.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:45 a.m. on March 4 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 4 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to President Jacques Chirac of France; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany; and President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Helping America's Youth in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania March 7, 2005

Thanks for the warm welcome here to "Knowledge City." Laura and I just came from the Providence Family Support Center. [Applause] You've got a reason to cheer. [Laughter] It is a fabulous place, and we really appreciate the Sisters of Divine Providence for letting us visit, particularly Mary Joan Coultas and all the other sisters there, for filling that space with love and compassion, trying to save souls one person at a time, and advancing a goal we all want, and that's for America to be the most hopeful country in the world for every single citizen. And that's really what we're here to talk about.

I said that's what we're here to talk about, but the truth of the matter is, I'm the introducer. [Applause] Yes. Not the first time people have cheered when I said, "I'm the introducer, and Laura's the speaker." [Laughter]

I do want to thank Senator Arlen Specter for joining us today, and I appreciate him

coming here. He's always telling me what to do, and I'm telling him what to do. [Laughter] Since it's my airplane—well, actually—[laughter]. I'm proud of Congressman Tim Murphy. It's good to see you, Murph. Thank you for coming. Congresswoman Melissa Hart, thank you for being here.

It's always good to see Bishop Donald Wuerl. Gosh, I think I've been with the Bishop three or four, maybe five times. Every time I'm with him, he talks about education. [Laughter] He loves education.

And it's—one of the things—when you talk about a hopeful America, it's important to always keep in mind the cornerstone of a hopeful America, the foundation of a hopeful America, is an education system which makes sure every single child can read, write, and add and subtract. It's the beginnings of what a hopeful America is about.