

Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; and Michael J. Boskin, senior fellow, Hoover Institution, who participated in a national Social Security forum townhall meet-

ing with President William J. Clinton in Albuquerque, NM, on July 27, 1998. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Celebration May 4, 2005

*The President.* Bienvenidos. Laura and I are honored to host so many distinguished Hispanic Americans and Mexican leaders here in the *Jardin de Rosas*. [Laughter] Welcome to the White House. The way I see it is, *mi casa es su casa*. [Laughter] I always look forward to Cinco de Mayo, especially because it gives me a chance to practice my Spanish. My only problem this year is I scheduled the dinner on *el cuatro de Mayo*. [Laughter] Next year I'm going to have to work on my math. [Laughter]

I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank the Attorney General of the United States, Alberto Gonzales, for joining us; the Secretary of Commerce, Carlos Gutierrez, and Edi; SBA Administrator Hector Barreto and his wife, Robin. Anna Cabral and Victor—Anna Cabral is the Treasurer of the United States. Welcome, Anna.

Eduardo Aguirre, who is the Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

*Audience members.* [Inaudible]

*The President.* These guys said they want to get to know you, Eduardo. [Laughter] By the way, Eduardo has been announced and, upon Senate confirmation, will become the U.S. Ambassador to Spain.

*Mi amigo, el juez del sur de Texas*, Ricardo Hinojosa. The U.S. Surgeon General and his wife, Diane—Dr. Richard Carmona.

*El Embajador de Mexico*, welcome. *El Embajador de Estados Unidos a Mexico*,

Tony Garza, *y su esposa nueva*, Maria. Welcome.

I want to thank Congressman Henry Bonilla and Sheryl for joining us today—welcome, Congressman. Congressman Henry Cuellar *de Texas*, welcome.

Josefina Vazquez Mota, Mexico's Secretary for Social Development, welcome.

I want to thank Christian Castro, recording artist, who is going to perform tonight. I appreciate Jaci Velasquez; where's Jaci? Jaci is somewhere. There she is. Thanks. She's going to emcee. I want to thank Mariachi Sol de Mexico.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates a joyful moment in Mexican history. Tonight we're proud to celebrate that moment together. The United States and Mexico are united by ties of family, faith in God, and a deep love for freedom.

More than 25 million men and women of Mexican origin now make their homes in the United States. And they're making our Nation more vibrant and more hopeful every day. Mexican Americans have enriched the American experience with contributions to music and dancing and the arts. Latino entrepreneurs are starting their own businesses all across America and are creating jobs and trading in freedom with businesses across borders. More Hispanic Americans own their own homes today than ever before. And Mexican Americans are firmly committed to leaving no child behind in America.

Mexican Americans are also strengthening our country with their patriotism and

service. Thousands of Mexican Americans have sacrificed in the Armed Services for our freedom. And more than 8,700 men and women born in Mexico now wear the uniform of the United States military. These dedicated men and women are making America safer, and they're making the world safer. And they're carrying on the courage and devotion that inspired an outnumbered band of Mexican soldiers to victory in the Battle of Pueblo on the cinco de Mayo, 1862.

Here at the White House, the triumph of Cinco de Mayo was recognized by President Abraham Lincoln. And through the generations, Americans have continued to look on our neighbor to the south with fondness and deep respect. Tonight we look to the future with confidence in our warm and growing friendship.

And so now it is my pleasure to offer a toast: May God bless the people of Mex-

ico and all the sons and daughters of Mexico who call America home. *Que Dios los bendiga.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:01 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Edilia Gutierrez, wife of Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez; Victor G. Cabral, husband of Treasurer of the United States Anna Escobedo Cabral; Ricardo H. Hinojosa, Chair, U.S. Sentencing Commission; Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S. Carlos Alberto de Icaza Gonzalez; U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Antonio O. Garza, Jr., and his wife, Maria; Sheryl Bonilla, wife of Representative Henry Bonilla; and entertainers Jaci Velasquez and Mariachi Sol de Mexico. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Interview With Lithuanian National Television May 4, 2005

### *Lithuanian Support for Freedom in Ukraine*

Q. Mr. President, you thanked President Valdas Adamkus for his efforts spreading the freedom in neighboring countries. What else could Lithuania do spreading the freedom in this region?

*The President.* Well, first, I did thank the President for his good work in the Ukraine. I thought it was a really great moment when the head of Lithuania got involved and encouraged the whole world to take notice of the freedom movement in the Ukraine. And by the way, that's a—the second election was a really important moment in the liberty movement. And I thanked him for that, genuinely so. And I want to say it again: I thank him for that.

Lithuania serves as a great example of what is possible. After years of being sub-

jugated to harsh rule, the Lithuanians are now free, and they're showing they can grow the economy and that people have a chance to express themselves and there's a vibrant society when you're free. And it has been hard; the transition from communism to a free democracy is a hard transition. And it's very important for the Lithuanians and the Government to share that experience with others who will be going through the same thing. And so I am very proud of Lithuania, and I'm proud to call her friend.

### *Democracy in Belarus*

Q. Mr. President, you showed a strong support for democracy cause in Belarus. And what is your administration planning to do, given the fact that Belarus Presidential election is planned next year?