

*Aug. 1 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2005*

## Statement Congratulating King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

*August 1, 2005*

On behalf of the United States, I congratulate my friend King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud on assuming the Saudi throne and the position of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. We wish Saudi

Arabia peace and prosperity under his leadership. I have spoken today to the new King, and the United States looks forward to continuing the close partnership between our two countries.

## Statement on the Death of First Vice President Dr. John Garang de Mabior of Sudan

*August 1, 2005*

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Sudanese First Vice President Dr. John Garang de Mabior. He was a visionary leader and peacemaker who helped bring about the comprehensive peace agreement, which is a beacon of hope for all Sudanese. The United States is determined to maintain our commitment to the peace process in Sudan. We urge all Sudanese people to refrain from resorting to violence and to

continue the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement. John Garang's vision of peace must be embraced by all the people in Sudan so that they can live in a democratic, peaceful, and united country. On behalf of the people of the United States, Laura and I extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Garang's wife, Rebecca, his family, and to all the people of Sudan.

## Telephone Remarks to the Crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*

*August 2, 2005*

*The President.* Commander Collins, can you hear me?

*Commander Eileen M. Collins.* Yes, sir, we hear you loud and clear. Good morning.

*The President.* Good morning. Thank you for taking my phone call. I just wanted to tell you all how proud the American people are of our astronauts. I want to thank you for being risktakers for the sake of exploration. I want to welcome our Japanese and Australian and Russian friends. And I wish you Godspeed in your mission. I know you've got very important work to do ahead of you. We look forward to seeing

the successful completion of this mission. And obviously, as you prepare to come back, a lot of Americans will be praying for a safe return.

So it's great talking to you. Thanks for being such great examples of courage for a lot of our fellow citizens.

*Commander Collins.* Thank you very much, Mr. President. We want to tell you that we really enjoy what we're doing. We really believe in our mission, and we believe in space exploration and getting people off the planet and seeing what's out there. So the steps that we're taking right