

teleconference were Capt. Brent Kennedy, USA, Capt. David J. Smith, USA, Capt. Stephen N. Pratt, USA, Capt. David Williams, USA, M. Sgt. Corine Lombardo, USA, 1st Lt. Gregg A. Murphy, USA, S. Sgt. David

Smith-Barry, USA, Sfc. Jerry R. Munoz, USA, Sgt. Dustin Giesbrecht, USA, and Sgt. Ronald E. Long, Jr., USA, 42d Infantry Division; and Sgt. Maj. Akeel Shaker Nassir, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

Remarks After Signing the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of Pakistan

October 14, 2005

Mr. Ambassador, thank you for having us. I'm here to express the condolences of the American people to those who suffered mightily as a result of the earthquake that struck your country. There's been a lot of loss of life, and Americans pray for those families who have lost a loved one.

There's been a lot of damage, and we want to help in any way we can. I told the Ambassador that—reminded him what I told President Musharraf—I said when I spoke to him, I said, "Pakistan is a friend, and America will help." We've moved a

lot of military equipment in there. We're helping with humanitarian aid as well. And so not only will we offer our prayers, but we'll offer our help and help the people and help the Government, help this great nation get back on its feet.

Thank you for having us.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S. Jehangir Karamat; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

The President's Radio Address

October 15, 2005

Good morning. This weekend is a momentous time in the history of the Middle East. After choosing their leaders in free elections in January, the Iraqi people have gone to the polls to vote on a democratic constitution. This Constitution is the result of months of debate and compromise by representatives of Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious communities. These leaders came together to produce a document that protects fundamental freedoms and lays the foundation for a lasting democracy. Earlier this week, the Iraqi people embraced changes to the text that have led to its endorsement by some Sunni leaders as well

as Kurdish and Shi'a leaders. Now the people of Iraq will have the final say.

By casting their ballots, the Iraqi people deal a severe blow to the terrorists and send a clear message to the world: Iraqis will decide the future of their country through peaceful elections, not violent insurgency. And by their courageous example, they're charting a new course for the entire Middle East.

This weekend's election is a critical step forward in Iraq's march toward democracy, and with each step the Iraqi people take, Al Qaida's vision for the region becomes more remote. As Iraqis prepared for this