

could be derived from such export, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,

December 14, 2005.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 16. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Following Discussions With Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations Samir Shakir Mahmood Sumaida'ie
December 16, 2005

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Ambassador to the United Nations from Iraq. This good man has been a—is an Iraqi patriot. He was there in Iraq right after liberation. He helped write the TAL, which is the go-by for the new Constitution. He's serving his country in New York now. He was a voter yesterday in the elections.

The reason he came by to say hello is, we want to talk about what a glorious day it was yesterday for the Iraqi citizens and what we're going to do to work together to make sure that we complete our mission, and that is to have an Iraq that can defend itself and sustain itself, an Iraq that will help us defeat the terrorists in this war on terror, an Iraq that will serve as such a powerful example for other countries in the region that share the same desires as the Iraqi citizen—that is the desire to live in a free world and a free society.

I'm so pleased to hear the stories from his Al Anbar Province, where his grandfather was—lived. And he was telling me about the stories from the village where he was from, about how there's no phone service because the terrorists blew up the capacity for people to make phone calls. But they forgot to shut off the Internet, and people were then describing for this good man what it was like to participate in the democratic process.

It was a remarkable day yesterday in the history of mankind and in the history of freedom.

And so, Mr. Ambassador, I'm glad you're here. Thank you so much for serving with such dignity. Welcome. It's been great talking to you.

Ambassador Sumaida'ie. Thank you, Mr. President. I believe that yesterday was a great day for Iraq; it was a great day for freedom. I think it was the turning point and the beginning of the end of terrorism in Iraq.

Iraqis have written, with their blood, a chapter of their history which will be remembered for decades, with the help of the American troops, with your help, Mr. President, and the help of the American people, which we will remember and appreciate for generations.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. And I believe that we should keep our eye on the ball and make sure that the mission is accomplished and we build an Iraq which is stable, at peace with itself and with its neighbor, and forever, I hope, a reliable ally of the United States.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on Senate Filibuster of PATRIOT Act Reauthorization Legislation

December 16, 2005

The PATRIOT Act has protected American liberty and saved American lives since the law's passage after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Today, a minority of Senators filibustered to block the Senate from voting to reauthorize key provisions of the act. These Senators need to understand that the PATRIOT Act expires in 15 days, but the terrorist threat to America will not expire on that schedule. The terrorists want to attack America again and kill the inno-

cent and inflict even greater damage than they did on September 11th, and the Congress has a responsibility not to take away this vital tool that law enforcement and intelligence officials have used to protect the American people. The Senators who are filibustering the PATRIOT Act must stop their delaying tactics so that we are not without this critical law for even a single moment.

Statement on Congressional Passage of Legislation To Help the Gulf Coast Rebuild Following Hurricanes Rita and Katrina

December 16, 2005

I commend the Congress for passing an important part of my comprehensive plan to help the citizens of the gulf coast rebuild their lives and their livelihoods. The private sector is critical in the rebuilding effort, and these tax incentives will help boost in-

vestment, get people back to work, and return the region to prosperity. Americans will continue to stand with our fellow citizens in the gulf coast region. I look forward to signing this bill into law.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Immigration Reform Legislation

December 16, 2005

I applaud the House for passing a strong immigration reform bill. America is a nation built on the rule of law, and this bill will help us protect our borders and crack down on illegal entry into the United States. Se-

curing our borders is essential to securing the homeland. I urge the Senate to take action on immigration reform so that I can sign a good bill into law.