

July 11 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2006

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; and
Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Mumbai, India
July 11, 2006

On behalf of the American people, Laura and I send our deepest condolences to the friends and families of the victims of today's brutal attacks on commuter rail passengers in Mumbai. The United States stands with the people and the Government of India and condemns in the strongest terms these atrocities, which were committed against in-

nocent people as they went about their daily lives. Such acts only strengthen the resolve of the international community to stand united against terrorism and to declare unequivocally that there is no justification for the vicious murder of innocent people.

Statement on Signing the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006
July 11, 2006

I have today signed into law H.R. 889, the "Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006." The Act authorizes funding for and strengthens the ability of the United States Coast Guard to perform its missions.

The executive branch shall construe the reference to the "National Intelligence Director" in section 309 of the Act, amending section 70105(c) of title 46, United States Code, to be a reference to the position of Director of National Intelligence established by law (50 U.S.C. 403(a)(1)).

The executive branch shall construe section 408(c) of the Act, which purports to make consultation with a legislative agent a precondition to execution of the law, to call for but not mandate such consultation, as is consistent with the Constitution's provisions concerning the separate powers of the Congress to legislate and the President to execute the laws.

Section 801 of the Act purports to require the Secretary of the department in

which the Coast Guard is operating to work at the International Maritime Organization with foreign nations toward specified international objectives. The executive branch shall construe the provision to be advisory, as is consistent with the constitutional commitment to the President of responsibility for conducting the foreign relations of the United States, including the exclusive responsibility for formulating the position of the United States in international fora and conducting negotiations with foreign nations.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,

July 11, 2006.

NOTE: H.R. 889, approved July 11, was assigned Public Law No. 109-241.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony in Stralsund, Germany July 13, 2006

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, Minister President, Lord Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, citizens of Stralsund, let me say that I am delighted to be able to welcome you on behalf of the representatives of the land and also of the city. I'm delighted to welcome most warmly the President of the United States of America. Mr. President, a very, very warm welcome to you.

Mr. President, I'm delighted to be able to welcome you here in this part of our country that I can truly call my political home, the Hanseatic City of Stralsund. Stralsund was part of the League of Hanseatic Cities; that is to say, it is imbued with a spirit of openness to the rest of the world. And in 1989, it was also one of the many cities where, on Monday, demonstrations took place, where people went out into the streets to demand freedom, to demonstrate for freedom. And we're happy to say in these days it is part of the land of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and also part of the Federal Republic of Germany.

And I think that this is a very good opportunity, indeed, to say a word of thanks. Thank you for the contribution, for the support that we have enjoyed throughout from the people of the United States of America, from the American Government, to help us along the way towards German unification. I think we owe you a big debt of gratitude for being able to finally live within one country in peace and freedom, one country, Germany.

I think one can safely say that ever since we were able to achieve German unity, a lot has happened and, indeed, Stralsund is a case in point. If you look at the fact that when the GDR finally collapsed, you had about 600 monuments here of historic importance in the city itself that were slowly decaying, that were slowly in ruins, and

part of them have been restored over time. But there are still quite a lot of problems that remain to be solved. One of them, obviously, is the fairly high unemployment in this particular part of the country. They urgently need economic progress, an economic upturn. And this is why I am also delighted to have you here, to show you here in my constituency what it means when people try to take their own fate, their own future into their own hands and try to turn it to something positive; they are willing to work for the future of the city, for the future of this region.

And I think it also clearly illustrates what we can do together in order to confront the international dangers, the threats at the international level that are common to us all, and that we can do in order to, together, work for peace and freedom for our two countries.

Yet again, a very, very warm welcome to you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you all. Thank you, Chancellor Merkel. Thank you all for coming. Laura and I feel welcome here in Stralsund. To the mayor and Minister President and the people of this beautiful town, we say, *guten morgen*.

For decades, the German people were separated by an ugly wall. Here in the East, millions of you lived in darkness and tyranny. Today, your nation is whole again. The German people are at the center of Europe that is united and free and peaceful.

You've given Germany a fine Chancellor in Angela Merkel, who I'm proud to call friend. The American people and the German people see the same qualities of character in your nation's leader. We see a bold vision and a humble heart. We see that she's willing to make hard decisions and eager to build strong partnerships. And like