

And finally, we have a tradition here, and that is, we actually don't throw out the first ball; we actually put the first ball on the tee. And joining me today is Kevin Turley. He's a Special Olympics gold medalist. Kevin, thanks for coming. Thank you for being a part of this.

You ready? Everybody ready? And right before we play ball, we'll give the Little League Pledge. Ready for the pledge?

[*At this point, the pledge was recited.*]

Play ball.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:45 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to White House Tee-Ball Commissioner Willie Mays. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 31.

## Remarks to Reporters in Miami, Florida *July 31, 2006*

It's an honor to be here at one of Miami's most famous restaurants. Brother Jeb suggested we come here and have some coffee with some of south Florida's leading entrepreneurs. We've got people who have started their own business, people who are carrying on family traditions, all of whom share with me their optimism but also share with me some of the problems they face.

One of the key problems that many of the businesses face here is labor. The unemployment rate is unbelievably low right now, and therefore, businesses who are planning for the future are wondering whether or not they're going to be able to find people to help their businesses expand. I assured them that the administration is still working toward a comprehensive immigration policy that will be rational, that will be able to, one, enforce rule of law and, on the other hand, be compassionate about how this country treats people.

I assured them, as well, that we will continue to work to keep taxes low. It's very interesting, you know; when an entrepreneur gets their business started, they want to keep more of their own money so they can expand. And one way to do that is to make sure that taxes stay low, and that's what we will do.

We talked about health care; we talked about energy; we talked about Cuba. So I want to thank you all very much for being here. Thanks for giving me a chance to come.

And by the way, we also talked about the situation in the Middle East. And I assured the people here that we will work toward a plan in the United Nations Security Council that addresses the root causes of the problem so that whatever comes out of the Security Council will be able to last and that the people in both Lebanon and Israel will be able to grow—be able to remain in peace. That's what we want. We want there to be a long-lasting peace, one that's sustainable. And I'll speak to Condi Rice when she gets back tonight, to talk about what she saw and what she heard in the Middle East. And of course, there will be a way forward in the Security Council later on this week.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:47 a.m. at the Versailles Restaurant and Bakery. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

## Remarks at the Port of Miami in Miami July 31, 2006

Thanks for the warm welcome on a warm day. [Laughter] I'm proud to be here in this really dynamic city. You know it's an amazing part of our country when you walk off and a Member of the United States Congress says, "*Bienvenido a Miami*."

This trip is a little different from the last time I spent the night here in Miami. Last night Jeb and I had some crabs with members of the 1972 Miami Dolphins; Dan Marino and his really dynamic wife; TV stars—Andy Garcia, a movie star. We had a fantastic experience. It's a lot better, by the way, than preparing for a presidential debate. [Laughter]

I'm glad to be here. I'm glad to be with brother Jeb. We're really proud of him in our family. He's a guy who does what he said he's going to do. He's a good man, *mi hermanito*.

Miami is a strong and vibrant city, and because your economy is strong and vibrant, you've helped this State's economy grow and you've helped the country grow. I want to spend some time talking about the economy and how we can keep our economy strong; no better place to do that than here in the Port of Miami. I'm proud to be with those who work in the port. I'm particularly proud to be with those who wear the uniform of the United States of America. Thanks for serving.

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard has joined us today, Admiral Thad Allen. Thanks for coming. Rear Admiral David Kunkel is with us. I appreciate you being here, Admiral. I particularly want to thank all those who are on our ships, work in our ports. And I thank your families. You tell your wife or your husband how much this country appreciates the support of our families for our Coast Guard men and women.

I want to thank Bill Johnson, who is acting seaport director. I'm proud to be here

with the Federal Emergency Management Agency head, Dave Paulison—south Floridian by the way. Members of the United States congressional delegation are with us, starting with the Congresswoman from this district, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. *Los hermanos* Diaz-Balart are with us today, Lincoln *y tambien* Mario. It's good to see you guys. Thanks for coming. Clay Shaw, Congressman Shaw is with us. I'm proud you're here.

The new speaker of the house, Marco Rubio, is with us today. Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mayor Carlos Alvarez is with us, *el alcalde*. Thank you. Mayor Manny Diaz is with us. Thank you, Manny. I want to thank all the local folks for coming, all the people who are concerned about south Florida—the local officials. I'm proud to be here.

Let me start by telling you I'm monitoring the situation in the Middle East very closely. Secretary Rice was in the region over the weekend, and she is working urgently to get a sustainable cease-fire, a cease-fire which will last. We're going to work with our allies to bring before the United Nations Security Council a resolution that will end the violence and lay the groundwork for lasting peace in the Middle East.

As we work with friends and allies, it is important to remember, this crisis began with Hizballah's unprovoked terrorist attacks against Israel. Israel is exercising its right to defend itself. And we mourn the loss of innocent life, both in Lebanon and in Israel. We're determined to deliver relief to those who suffer; we're determined to work to resolve this crisis.

To achieve the peace that we want, we must achieve certain clear objectives. Lebanon's democratic Government must be empowered to exercise sole authority over its territory. A multinational force must be dispatched to Lebanon quickly so we can