

John, I want to thank you. I'm impressed by your operations. I particularly want to thank your workers for giving me a chance to come by and meet you. America is blessed by having a highly skilled workforce like we have, and that enables us to compete. This is a competitive company. It's a company that can't fill every order it gets because they're constrained by being able to find enough workers. It's one of the issues that faces America: Can we com-

pete? And one way we compete is to make sure our education system educates people who've got the skills necessary to fill the jobs of the 21st century, just like they're being filled here at this company.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:29 a.m. at Fox Valley Metal-Tech, Inc. Participating in the event was John E. West, president, Fox Valley Metal-Tech, Inc.

Statement on Kleptocracy *August 10, 2006*

For too long, the culture of corruption has undercut development and good governance and bred criminality and mistrust around the world. High-level corruption by senior government officials, or kleptocracy, is a grave and corrosive abuse of power and represents the most invidious type of public corruption. It threatens our national interest and violates our values. It impedes our efforts to promote freedom and democracy, end poverty, and combat international crime and terrorism. Kleptocracy is an obstacle to democratic progress, undermines faith in government institutions, and steals prosperity from the people. Promoting transparent, accountable governance is a critical component of our freedom agenda.

At this year's G-8 meeting in St. Petersburg, my colleagues joined me in calling for strengthened international efforts to deny kleptocrats access to our financial systems and safe haven in our countries; stronger efforts to combat fraud, corruption, and misuse of public resources; and increased capacity internationally to prevent opportunities for high-level public corrup-

tion. Today I am announcing a new element in my administration's plan to fight kleptocracy, the National Strategy to Internationalize Efforts Against Kleptocracy, which sets forth a framework to deter, prevent, and address high-level public corruption. It identifies critical tools to detect and prosecute corrupt officials around the world, so that the promise of economic assistance and growth reaches the people.

Our objective is to defeat high-level public corruption in all its forms and to deny corrupt officials access to the international financial system as a means of defrauding their people and hiding their ill-gotten gains. Given the nature of our open, accessible international financial system, our success in fighting kleptocracy will depend upon the participation and accountability of our partner nations, the international financial community, and regional and multilateral development institutions. Together we can confront kleptocracy and help create the conditions necessary for people everywhere to enjoy the full benefits of honest, just, and accountable governance.

Statement on Terrorist Attacks in Najaf, Iraq *August 11, 2006*

The terrorists in Iraq have again proven that they are enemies of all humanity. Yesterday they targeted innocent civilians in Najaf near a holy Muslim shrine and a symbol of peace throughout the world.

According to Iraqi officials, the terrorist who committed this atrocity was stopped by Iraqi police before he could enter the holy shrine. These police officers were killed in the attack. They died for their country and for the cause of freedom, and we honor their dedication and bravery. We

also mourn the loss of every innocent life in this atrocity and other atrocities perpetrated in Iraq in recent months.

On behalf of the American people, I join Iraqi leaders of all communities who have condemned this barbarous action in the strongest possible terms. To the Iraqi people, I pledge the commitment of the United States to helping your new Government bring peace and security to all areas of your country.

The President's Radio Address *August 12, 2006*

Good morning. This week, America received a stark reminder that terrorists are still plotting attacks to kill our people. Beginning on Wednesday night, authorities in Great Britain arrested more than 20 individuals who we believe were plotting to detonate liquid explosives aboard flights from the United Kingdom to the United States. If these terrorists had succeeded, they could have caused death on a massive scale. The plot appears to have been carefully planned and well-advanced. They planned to bring the components of their explosives on board in their carry-on luggage, disguised as bottled drinks and electronic devices.

We believe that this week's arrests have significantly disrupted the threat. Yet we cannot be sure that the threat has been eliminated. So as a precaution, on Thursday, the Federal Government took several steps to increase security at our airports and aboard our planes.

First, the Department of Homeland Security has raised our Nation's threat warning to Code Red—the highest level—for

flights from Great Britain to America, in coordination with British authorities. Second, we've raised the threat warning for all domestic and international flights landing in the United States to Code Orange, the second highest level. We also have sent additional Federal air marshals to Great Britain to provide extra protection aboard flights from the United Kingdom to the United States.

This plot is further evidence that the terrorists we face are sophisticated and constantly changing their tactics. On September the 11th, 2001, they used box cutters to hijack airplanes and kill thousands of innocent people. This time, we believe they planned to use liquid explosives to blow up planes in mid-air. In response, we've adjusted our security precautions by temporarily banning most liquids as carry-on items on planes. I know many of you will be traveling during this busy summer vacation season, and I ask for your patience, cooperation, and vigilance in the coming days. The inconveniences you will face are for your protection, and they will