

Message to the Congress Certifying Exports to the People's Republic of China

May 15, 2007

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify that the export to the People's Republic of China of the following items is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China:

- A four-axis filament winding machine for production of spare parts for Chi-

na's water purification and treatment industries;

- A computer control system upgrade to a three-axis filament winding machine for production of spare parts for China's water purification and treatment industries;
- An isostatic press for manufacturing automotive spare parts; and
- A four-axis filament winding machine to be used in production of graphite or glass composite golf clubs.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
May 15, 2007.

Remarks Following a Discussion on the Employment Eligibility Verification System

May 16, 2007

I appreciate the discussion we just had on immigration. With us are people who are employers, people who provide work for citizens who are in our country legally. They know full well it's against the law to hire somebody who is here illegally. They need help from the Government to make sure the person they hire is here legally, that they're not dealing with forged documents.

And so we've been reviewing the upgrading of the Basic Pilot program, which is the Government's attempt to help small-business owners and larger business owners make sure that the people they're finding work for are not breaking the law. In other words, we can't ask our employers to verify somebody here unless we help them. And the reason why we're talking about this subject is that holding employers to account

for violating the law is an integral part of a comprehensive immigration reform package.

I thank members of my Cabinet, Secretaries Gutierrez and Chertoff, for taking the White House lead in working with Members of the United States Senate to get a comprehensive immigration bill to the floor as quickly as possible, that can pass the Senate. And it's been hard work. This is a very emotional issue. I firmly believe that the bill needs to be comprehensive. In other words, you can't have one aspect of immigration reform pass and not other aspects; otherwise, we'll be back to where we were in the past, and that is, reform efforts have failed because it hadn't been comprehensive enough.

The best way and frankly only way to get a comprehensive bill done that will

matter and deal with this issue once and for all is for the bipartisan approach that we're now working on come to fruition, that it's got to be a bipartisan bill that is—is that bill our Secretaries are working on with members from both parties in the Senate. Hopefully, that bill can get to the floor as quickly as possible, and, hopefully, we can get a positive vote so we can get the bill over to the House of Representatives.

But there is a good chance. I'm optimistic that we can get comprehensive immigration reform: one, that enforces our borders; two, holds employers to account; three, recognizes we've got workers here who are doing jobs Americans aren't doing, and they ought to have a—there ought to be a temporary-worker permit to do so; four, to make sure that we treat people who are here already with respect and dignity, without amnesty, without animosity; and, five, to continue the assimilation pro-

gram, so necessary to make sure our country continues to move forward in an optimistic way.

And so I want to thank you all for sharing with me your stories. I appreciate the fact that you're deeply concerned about upholding the law. I thank you for sharing with me your desires to see that Congress get a comprehensive immigration bill done soon. And I assure you that the White House, along with decent, honorable Members of the Senate, are working very hard to bring that bill to conclusion.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Washington D.C.-Convention Center. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

May 17, 2007

President Bush. Thank you. I'm pleased to welcome Tony Blair back to the White House. He is a good friend. He has led the British people for a long time, since 1797. [*Laughter*]

You know, I was sitting with Tony on the Truman Balcony last night, and we were discussing a lot of issues. And it dawned on me, once again, what a clear strategic thinker he is. Somebody asked me the other day, how would you define Tony Blair and your relationship with him? I said, first of all, it's cordial; it's open; and I appreciate the fact that he can see beyond the horizon. And that's the kind of leadership the world needs.

I do congratulate the Prime Minister for being a—when he gets on a subject, it's

dogged. Witness his patience and resolve regarding Northern Ireland. And congratulations for your leadership.

We talked about a lot of issues at dinner and our meetings. We talked about, of course, Iraq. As a matter of fact, the Prime Minister and I have just finished a video conference with our respective commanders and Ambassadors from Baghdad. We got a full briefing on the situation on the ground. I appreciated Tony's willingness to interface with our people there. I remind our people that the best decisions are made when you listen to the commanders. And our commanders have got good, specific advice as how to achieve our objectives—which I believe we'll achieve—objectives that I know are necessary for