

And so I want to thank you all for joining on a really important piece of legislation. It's the right thing to do. It's the right approach to take. It is right to address a problem. It is right to work with people in both political parties. It is right to argue for what you believe and recognize that compromise might be necessary to move the bill along. And it is right to take political risk for Members of the United States Congress.

I say—I don't think this is risky, frankly. I don't view this as risk reward. I frankly view it as doing what you ought to do. See, people ought to be running for office to do what's right for the United States of America. That's what I believe people run for office for. And so I want you to know that you've got an administration that looks forward to working with people. I will do my best to make sure that this debate does not denigrate into name-calling

and finger-pointing. And we'll spend energy and time and effort to help you advance a really important piece of legislation for the good of this country.

I've come by to say thanks. Chertoff and Gutierrez can tell you how the bill has gotten this far and what we see in the future. But I'm looking forward to signing a bill, and I think we will. I truly believe that when people with good will and good heart and with focus on helping this country come together, that we can get a good piece of legislation out. And I'm looking forward to signing it. I hope you'll be there when I do.

God bless. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:26 p.m. in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Ens. Marc A. Mares, USCG. He also referred to S. 1348.

Statement on the American Citizens Held in Iran

June 1, 2007

Several of our fellow American citizens—including Haleh Esfandiari, Parnaz Azima, Kian Tajbakhsh, and Ali Shakeri—are being held against their will by the Iranian regime. I strongly condemn their detention at the hands of Iranian authorities. They should be freed immediately and unconditionally.

These individuals have dedicated themselves to building bridges between the American and Iranian people, a goal the Iranian regime claims to support. Their presence in Iran—to visit their parents or to conduct humanitarian work—poses no threat. Indeed, their activities are typical

of the abiding ties that Iranian Americans have with their land of origin.

I am also disturbed by the Iranian regime's refusal so far to provide any information on Robert Levinson, despite repeated U.S. requests. I call on Iran's leaders to tell us what they know about his whereabouts.

The United States is committed to protecting its citizens at home and abroad. We will maintain our efforts on behalf of these citizens until all of them are reunited with their families.

Statement on the Resignation of Daniel J. Bartlett as Counselor to the President

June 1, 2007

Laura and I will miss Dan Bartlett very much. Dan has been a true counselor to the President. His contribution has been immeasurable. I value his judgment, and I treasure his friendship. Since coming to work for me 14 years ago as I prepared

to run for Governor, Dan has become a husband and a father. I understand his decision to make his young family his first priority. His most important job is to be a loving husband and father of three young sons. We wish him all the best.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Designations Under the Kingpin Act

June 1, 2007

Dear _____ :

This report to the Congress, under section 804(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act, 21 U.S.C. 1901–1908 (the “Kingpin Act”), transmits my designations of the following five foreign persons and one foreign entity for sanctions under the Kingpin Act and reports my direction of sanctions against them under that Act:

Victor Emilio Cazarez Salazar

Gulf Cartel

Jorge Mario Paredes Cordova

Haji Azizullah Alizai

Shahbaz Khan

Frederik Heinz Barth

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John D. Rockefeller IV, chairman, Senate Select

Committee on Intelligence; Patrick J. Leahy, chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Carl Levin, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Max S. Baucus, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance; Joseph I. Lieberman, chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Silvestre Reyes, chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; John Conyers, Jr., chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary; Thomas P. Lantos, chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Isaac N. Skelton IV, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; Charles B. Rangel, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means; Bennie G. Thompson, chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security.