

might be willing to try to blackmail free nations. That's the true threat of the 21st century. It's a subject that I told you I discussed with President Putin.

I have made clear what you just made clear, Mr. President: The system we have proposed is not directed at Russia. Indeed, we would welcome Russian cooperation on missile defense. We think it makes sense to have a—and I proposed and he accepted a working group from our State Department, Defense Department, and military to discuss different opportunities and different options, all aimed at providing protection for people from rogue regimes who might be in a position to either blackmail and/or attack those of us who live in free societies.

All in all, we had the kind of conversation you'd expect strong allies to have. It was candid; it was over a really good meal. And I'm looking forward to bringing you back, Mr. President, to the White House. I can't wait to see you there in mid-July. Again, thank you all for your wonderful hospitality. God bless the people of Poland.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:22 p.m. at Gdansk Lech Walesa International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Maria Kaczynska, wife of President Kaczynski; and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia. President Kaczynski referred to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France. President Kaczynski spoke in Polish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Statement on the Nomination of Admiral Michael G. Mullen To Be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General James E. Cartwright To Be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

*June 8, 2007*

General Peter Pace has served our Nation with great distinction for 40 years. He is an outstanding marine, and he made history as the first marine to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Pete's job has been to help ensure that America's military forces are prepared to meet the threats of this new century. This is a difficult task in a time of peace. Pete Pace has done it in a time of war, and he has done it superbly. As part of our senior military leadership, Pete has helped oversee the liberation of more than 50 million people. I have relied on his unvarnished military judgment, and I value his candor, his integrity, and his friendship.

Pete's life is the story of the American Dream. He grew up in an immigrant family, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, and went on to hold the highest position in our Armed Forces. He is a man

of character who leads by example. I thank his wife Lynne, who knows from long experience that military service is a family commitment. I also thank his son Peter and his daughter Tiffany. America has been blessed by Pete's lifetime of service. And I wish all the best for the Pace family as this good man begins a new chapter in his life.

I am pleased to accept the recommendation of Secretary Gates that I nominate Admiral Michael Mullen to succeed General Pace. Admiral Mullen has performed ably as Chief of Naval Operations. He holds degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy, the Harvard Business School, and the Naval Postgraduate School. He has served ably in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, as well as in both Allied and Joint Commands. And when he is confirmed by the United States Senate, he will make a superb Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Admiral Edmund Giambastiani has been a strong and effective Vice Chairman. He is an officer of vision and determination, and he has served at a time of unprecedented danger for America. His time in the Joint Chiefs capped an exemplary military career. As commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, he helped transform our Nation's military so it could better face the new threats of a new century. And he did the same for NATO while serving as its first Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation. The admiral is a highly decorated officer, but he is most proud of his unit awards and commendations because they represent team accomplishments. I thank his wife Cindy, his daughter Cathy, and his son Pete, for the support they have provided. I salute Admiral G for his long career of

distinguished service. He has earned the thanks of a grateful nation.

I am also pleased to announce that I am accepting Secretary Gates's recommendation to nominate General James E. Cartwright as the new Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Cartwright is a Marine Corps pilot who serves as commander, United States Strategic Command, where he has done an outstanding job managing America's global strategic forces. In that role, he is responsible for the global command and control of U.S. Strategic Forces. He is an exceptional officer, and when he is confirmed by the Senate, he will be an outstanding Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NOTE: The statement referred to Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

## The President's Radio Address *June 9, 2007*

Good morning. This week, I am traveling in Europe, where I am meeting with world leaders to discuss ways to address challenges like climate change, to work together to combat diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS, and help advance freedom throughout the world.

Back at home, America is engaged in an important discussion about immigration. Most Americans agree that the 1986 immigration law failed. It failed because it did not secure our border; it did not include tough worksite enforcement; it did not help people assimilate; and it encouraged more people to come here illegally. Today, illegal immigration is supported by criminal enterprises dedicated to document forgery, human trafficking, and labor exploitation. This is unacceptable, and we need to fix it in a way that honors our finest traditions.

People have strong feelings on this issue. I believe we can express our feelings, dis-

agree on certain elements, and still come together on a solution. We can accomplish that through the bipartisan Senate bill. It is based on months of negotiation. The result is legislation that puts border security first, establishes a temporary-worker program to meet the legitimate needs of our growing economy, sets up a mandatory system for verifying employment eligibility, and resolves the status of the estimated 12 million people who are here illegally. If this bill becomes law, America will finally have in place a system that addresses all these problems and can be adjusted to address future problems that may arise.

I understand the skepticism some Members of Congress have regarding certain aspects of this legislation. Like any legislation, this bill is not perfect. And like many Senators, I believe the bill will need to be further improved along the way before it becomes law. In the heat of the debate,