

table with citizens who care enough about their country that they would take time out of their private lives and present me with this comprehensive view.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Statement on the Situation in Lebanon *January 29, 2007*

I am deeply disappointed by the recent violence and bloodshed on the streets of Lebanon. It is all the more troubling that the violence occurred while Lebanon's legitimate leaders and friends were gathered together in Paris to help secure a peaceful and prosperous future for the country. Lebanon's friends have pledged a total of \$7.6 billion at the International Conference on Support for Lebanon. I will ask Congress for \$770 million to contribute to this cause. With this pledge, total U.S. support for Lebanon since last summer's conflict, including the \$230 million pledged at the Stockholm Conference last August, will equal approximately \$1 billion. This is a strong symbol of the American people's support for and commitment to the future of Lebanon.

All those who seek a peaceful, constitutional solution to the crisis in Lebanon de-

serve the support of the international community, but those responsible for creating chaos must be called to account. While Lebanon's friends seek to help the Lebanese Government build a free, sovereign, and prosperous country, Syria, Iran, and Hizballah are working to destabilize Lebanese society. Their goals are clear: They foment violence in order to prevent the establishment of a special tribunal in response to former Prime Minister Hariri's assassination, to prevent full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for Hizballah's disarmament, and to bring down Lebanon's democratically elected Government, in violation of its Constitution. The United States will continue to support Lebanon's Government as it seeks a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Lebanon.

Remarks Following Breakfast With Small-Business Leaders in Peoria, Illinois *January 30, 2007*

I'm here in Peoria for a couple of reasons. One, I'm looking forward to going to a great American company, Caterpillar, and talking about the importance of opening up markets for U.S. products, because when Caterpillar sells its products overseas, it helps people find work here in Peoria. But equally importantly, I'm here with

some business entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs.

Here are my impressions: One, the business sector—small-business sector—of the heartland is strong. And it's really strong because of low taxes. But it's also strong because of—the entrepreneurial spirit is