

Message to the Congress on Blocking Property of Persons Undermining  
the Sovereignty of Lebanon or Its Democratic Processes and Institutions  
*August 1, 2007*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat in Lebanon posed by the actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions, to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contributing to political and economic instability in that country and the region. Such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

This order will block the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to have taken, or to pose a significant risk of taking, actions, including acts of violence, that have the purpose or effect of undermining Lebanon's democratic processes or institutions or contributing to the breakdown of the rule of law in Lebanon, supporting the reassertion of Syrian control or contributing to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or infringing upon or undermining Lebanese sovereignty. The order further authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury,

in consultation with the Secretary of State, to block the property and interests in property of those persons determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financing, material, logistical, or technical support for, or goods or services in support of, such actions or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; to be a spouse or dependent child of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or to be owned or controlled by, or to act or purport to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of my order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
August 1, 2007.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 2. The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting *August 2, 2007*

Good morning. I just had a—I finished a Cabinet meeting. One of the things we discussed was the terrible situation there in Minneapolis. We talked about the fact that the bridge collapsed, and that we in the Federal Government must respond, and respond robustly, to help the people there not only recover but to make sure that life-line of activity, that bridge gets rebuilt as quickly as possible.

To that end, Secretary Peters is in Minneapolis, as well as Federal Highway Administrator Capka. I spoke to Governor Pawlenty and Mayor Rybak this morning. I told them that the Secretary would be there. I told them we would help with rescue efforts, but I also told them how much we are in prayer for those who suffered. And I thank our fellow—my fellow citizens for holding up those who are suffering right now in prayer.

We also talked about—in the Cabinet meeting—talked about the status of important pieces of legislation before the Congress. We spent a fair amount of time talking about the fact that how disappointed we are that Congress hasn't sent any spending bills to my desk. By the end of this week, Members are going to be leaving for their month-long August recess. And by the time they will return, there will be less than a month before the end of the fiscal year on September the 30th, and yet they haven't passed 1 of the 12 spending bills that they're required to pass. If Congress doesn't pass the spending bills by the end of the fiscal year, Cabinet Secretaries report that their Departments may be unable to move forward with urgent priorities for our country.

This just doesn't have to be this way. The Democrats won last year's election fair and square, and now they control the calendar for bringing up bills in Congress. They need to pass each of these spending

bills individually, on time, and in a fiscally responsible way.

The budget I've sent to Congress fully funds America's priorities. It increases discretionary spending by 6.9 percent. My Cabinet Secretaries assure me that this is adequate to meet the needs of our Nation.

Unfortunately, Democratic leaders in Congress want to spend far more. Their budget calls for nearly \$22 billion more in discretionary spending next year alone. These leaders have tried to downplay that figure. Yesterday one called this increase, and I quote, "a very small difference" from what I proposed. Only in Washington can \$22 billion be called a very small difference. And that difference will keep getting bigger. Over the next 5 years, it will total nearly \$205 billion in additional discretionary spending. That \$205 billion averages out to about \$112 million per day, \$4.7 million per hour, \$78,000 per minute.

Put another way, that's about \$1,300 in higher spending every second of every minute of every hour of every day of every year for the next 5 years. That's a lot of money—even for career politicians in Washington. In fact, at that pace, Democrats in Congress would have spent an extra \$300,000 since I began these remarks.

There's only one way to pay for all this new Federal spending without running up the deficit, and that is to raise your taxes. A massive tax hike is the last thing the American people need. The plan I put forward would keep your taxes low and balance the budget within 5 years, and that is the right path for our country.

I want to thank OMB Director Rob Portman for his hard work in developing this plan. This was Rob's last Cabinet meeting. Laura and I wish him and his family well. And I call on the Senate to confirm his successor, Jim Nussle, so we can work together to keep our Government running,