

Aug. 9 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2007

of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For 2008, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of \$8.38 billion.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Statement on Improving Border Security and Immigration Within Existing Law

August 10, 2007

Today members of my Cabinet announced a series of important new administrative actions to address border security and immigration challenges. These reforms represent steps my administration can take within the boundaries of existing law to better secure our borders, improve worksite enforcement, streamline existing temporary-worker programs, and help new immigrants assimilate into American society.

Although the Congress has not addressed our broken immigration system by passing comprehensive reform legislation, my administration will continue to take every pos-

sible step to build upon the progress already made in strengthening our borders, enforcing our worksite laws, keeping our economy well-supplied with vital workers, and helping new Americans learn English.

I appreciate the work of Secretary Chertoff and Secretary Gutierrez in implementing these important reforms, which will improve our security and enrich our Nation.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

The President's Radio Address

August 11, 2007

Good morning. In America, August is considered a slow news month. But in the war on terror, America and our allies remain on the offense against our enemies. And this month, we've had some encouraging news from both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Earlier this week, I had a good meeting with President Karzai of Afghanistan at Camp David. He updated me on the work his Government is doing to help build a more hopeful future for the Afghan people. He told me that senior officials and tribal leaders from Afghanistan and Pakistan are meeting to discuss how to deal with the

extremists who are targeting both their countries. And he explained why he's confident that his Government will prevail against the Taliban remnants who continue to launch attacks throughout his country.

Here's how President Karzai put it: "The Taliban do pose dangers to our innocent people. [But] they are not posing any threat to the Government of Afghanistan; they are not posing any threat to the institutions of Afghanistan or to the buildup of institutions of Afghanistan." He continued: The Taliban "is a force that's defeated," and it is "acting in cowardice by killing children

going to school.” In other words, the Taliban fighters can still launch attacks on the innocent, but they cannot stop the march of democracy in Afghanistan.

In Iraq, we’re working to help put the Iraqi Government on the same path. The surge that General Petraeus and our troops are carrying out is designed to help provide security for the Iraqi people, especially in Baghdad, and aid the rise of an Iraqi Government that can protect its people, deliver basic services for all its citizens, and serve as an ally in the war on terror. Our new strategy is delivering good results, and our commanders recently reported more good news.

One encouraging development was a coalition airstrike that killed a terrorist named al-Badri earlier this month. Al-Badri was the mastermind of the bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra, one of Shi’a Islam’s holiest shrines. That bombing sparked the escalation in sectarian violence we saw in 2006. Al-Badri was the most notorious Al Qaida commander in Samarra. He sheltered foreign terrorists, and he was responsible for attacks that claimed many innocent lives. His death is a victory for a free Iraq and a sign that America and the Iraqi Government will not surrender the future of Iraq to coldblooded killers.

Al-Badri is just one of the many Al Qaida leaders and other extremists who are coming under a withering assault across Iraq. Only a year ago, Al Qaida ruled places like Ramadi, terrorizing the local population and intimidating local authorities. Today, Al Qaida has largely been driven out of these cities, markets and schools are reopening, and normal life is returning. And since January, each month we have killed or captured an average of more than 1,500 Al Qaida terrorists and other enemies of Iraq’s elected Government.

Our surge is seizing the initiative from the enemy and handing it to the Iraqi people, and Iraqis are responding. Local residents are coming forward with tips that are helping U.S. and Iraqi forces rout out terrorists hiding among the population. While political progress has been slower than we had hoped, the Iraqi Parliament passed more than 50 pieces of legislation in its most recent session. They approved a \$41 billion budget, created an electoral commission and military courts, and laid the groundwork for private sector investment in production of gasoline and diesel fuel. At the same time, Iraqi forces have taken responsibility for security in a number of areas. They are taking losses at a much higher rate than we are. And they’re making these sacrifices willingly, because they are determined to see their children live in freedom.

The enemy in Iraq is still dangerous, and the surge is still in its early stages. Changing conditions on the ground is difficult work, but our troops are proving that it can be done. They are carrying out their mission with skill and honor. They are accomplishing great things for the future of our Nation and for the future of a free Iraq.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8 a.m. on August 10 in Kennebunkport, ME, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 11. In his address, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 10, but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks During a Visit With President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and an Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine August 11, 2007

President Bush. Everybody having a good time here?

Q. Thank you. It's great.

President George H.W. Bush. It's a good day. You're back.

President Bush. Particularly thinking about you, Mark [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio].

Q. Yes, sir.

President George H.W. Bush. Good. Great.

President Bush. Mark, let me ask you, you looking forward to going down to Crawford?

Q. You bet; can't wait.

President Bush. Good. Well, that will be Monday.

Visit of President Sarkozy

Q. Mr. President, what do you expect about France——

President Bush. I expect to be with a friend. I'm looking forward to having him with my family. The best way we can do things—the best way we can send a good signal to President Sarkozy is to invite him here at the family house. I've got a lot of my brothers around, my sister, my daughters. He's going to get a—he's going to figure out what——

President George H.W. Bush. Youngest grandchild made these signs.

The First Lady. Did you see the signs the grandchildren made?

President George H.W. Bush. *Le signe.*

President Bush. What language are you speaking? [Laughter]

President George H.W. Bush. Is that "sign"—*signe*?

Q. *Signe.*

The First Lady. See. He remembered his French.

Q. Mr. President, aren't you disappointed that Mr.——

President Bush. Never disappointed, always upbeat. Feeling good, feeling optimistic about life. Thank you. Thank you. Disappointed about what?

First Lady Cecilia Sarkozy

Q. ——about Mrs. Sarkozy not coming?

President Bush. Of course we are. She's a very dynamic woman. She is—we were looking forward to seeing her as well as the children. And so we're disappointed she's sick, but we understand. That happens sometimes in life.

President George H.W. Bush. Very nice of him to come, having been back to France yesterday.

President Bush. Yes.

President George H.W. Bush. It's amazing.

Visit of President Sarkozy/President Bush's Vacation

Q. Are you surprised the President of France vacations in America?

President Bush. We're pleased he's here. Of course he makes the choice he makes. If people were asking me where I think they ought to vacation, it would be right here in America, where I'll be vacationing, as you know, Monday, starting in Crawford.

President's Vacation

Q. Could you imagine you, or you, sir, as President, vacationing in a foreign country?

President Bush. Of course I could.

Q. Really?

President Bush. Yes, there's some spectacular spots around the world that would be——

President George H.W. Bush. We've done it.

President Bush. ——great places to relax. But as you know, Mark, I'm a fellow—I'm a Texan; I like my place down there.