

Message to the Senate Transmitting an Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

September 4, 2007

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (the “Amendment”). A conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted on October 28, 1979, adopted the Amendment on July 8, 2005, at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the Department of State report on the Amendment. Legislation necessary to implement the Amendment will be submitted to the Congress separately.

The Amendment contains specific provisions to effect a coordinated international response to combating and preventing nuclear terrorism and ensuring global security. It will require each State Party to the Amendment to establish, implement, and maintain an appropriate physical protection regime applicable to nuclear material and nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes. The aims of the regime are to protect such material against theft or other unlawful taking, to locate and rapidly recover missing or stolen material, to protect such material and facilities against sabotage,

and to mitigate or minimize the radiological consequences of sabotage. The Amendment also provides a framework for cooperation among States Parties directed at preventing nuclear terrorism and ensuring punishment of offenders; contains provisions for protecting sensitive physical protection information; and adds new criminal offenses that each State Party must make punishable by law. States Parties must also either submit for prosecution or extradite any person within their jurisdictions alleged to have committed one of the offenses defined in the Convention, as amended.

This Amendment is important in the campaign against international nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation. I recommend, therefore, that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Amendment, subject to the understandings described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
September 4, 2007.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 6.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Sydney

September 6, 2007

President Bush. The President and I just concluded a very constructive meeting. It was constructive because, one, we had a lot to talk about—a lot of interests that we want to work together on—and also because he’s an easy man to talk to. I’m very

comfortable in my discussions with President Hu.

We talked about Iran and North Korea and Sudan. We talked about climate change and our desire to work together on climate change. We talked about our economic relations and our trade. And the President

was quite articulate about product safety, and I appreciated his comments. We also talked about currency and exchange rates. And finally, I had a chance to share once again with the President my belief in religious freedom and religious liberty.

It was a constructive and cordial conversation. And once again, he extended an invitation to me and Laura and our family to come to the Olympics. And of course, I was anxious to accept.

So thank you, Mr. President.

President Hu. President Bush and I had a meeting in a candid and friendly atmosphere. We reviewed the new progress made in China-U.S. relations in the past few months. We discussed a number of issues in our bilateral relations. We both expressed a desire to work for further development and growth of the business and commercial sides between our two countries through dialog and consultations.

We also talked about climate change. We believe that the issue of climate change bears on the welfare of the whole humanity

and sustainable development of the whole world. And this issue should be appropriately tackled through stronger international cooperation.

I also briefed the—President Bush on the latest developments in the situation across the Taiwan Straits. President Bush also explicitly stated the U.S. position—consistent U.S. position of opposing any changes to the status quo. We also discussed issues like the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, the Iranian nuclear issue, and Sudan—Darfur.

All in all, our talks have been sincere and cordial. I am committed to working together with President Bush to further advance our constructive and cooperative relations.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:27 p.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. President Hu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the Death of Representative Paul E. Gillmor *September 6, 2007*

Congressman Paul Gillmor's life was an extraordinary example to service and leadership. From working as an Air Force judge advocate during the Vietnam war to championing legislation in the Halls of Congress, Paul devoted his career to strengthening his State and his nation. He was a good man and dedicated public servant who represented the people of Ohio with distinction for four decades. In Ohio, he served as president of the State senate for three

general assemblies. In Washington, Paul was well respected for his leadership of a wide range of issues before the House Financial Services and Energy and Commerce Committees. We will always remain grateful for his service.

Laura and I are deeply saddened by his death. We pray for his wife Karen and their family.