

Teleconference Remarks With Provincial Reconstruction Team Leaders and Brigade Combat Commanders in Iraq *September 17, 2007*

Secretary Rice and Secretary Gates, General Pace, members of my national security team have just listened to some briefings from Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Iraq. I want to thank our fellow citizens for serving on the frontline of—in this war against extremists and radicals. I appreciate their dedication, and I appreciate the sacrifice of their families.

General Odierno just briefed us on an interesting statistic. He said that for the week of September 8–15, attack levels across Iraq are the lowest they have been since January of 2006, which, of course, is a time prior to the Samarra bombing. And when you couple that with the grass-roots efforts that our PRT—Provincial Reconstruction Teams are making, you begin to get a sense of why I'm confident that we can succeed in Iraq, why I believe that the efforts that we're making toward making sure that an extremists like Al Qaida doesn't have safe haven from which to plot attacks and, at the same time, helping people realize the blessings of liberty, which will yield long-term peace, can happen, can succeed.

And so I told the folks there that, on behalf of a grateful nation, that we thank them for what they're doing. And I look

forward to further discussions with those who actually see the progress that is taking place, with those who are living amongst the people and can report firsthand that the success that was reported on by General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker now happens on a—is happening on a daily basis.

Now, there's no question, we got more work to be done. But the question I always ask myself is, is the mission important to the security of the United States? And the answer is, absolutely. And can we be successful? And the answer to that is, yes, we can.

And I want to thank you all very much for seeing to it that we will be successful. Thank you for your time, and we ask for God's blessings on you.

Thank you.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 10:10 a.m. The President spoke in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Corps—Iraq; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Remarks on the Nomination of Judge Michael B. Mukasey To Be Attorney General *September 17, 2007*

Good morning. I'm pleased to announce my nomination of Judge Michael Mukasey to be the 81st Attorney General of the United States. Judge, thank you for agreeing to serve.

The Attorney General serves as our Nation's chief law enforcement officer. The Attorney General has an especially vital role to play in a time of war, and when we face the challenges—and we face the challenge of protecting our people on a daily