

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:50 p.m. at the Emirates Palace Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Aida Abdullah Al-Azdi, executive director, Emirates Center for Strategic

Studies and Research; President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority; Nobel Prize winner and economist Gary S. Becker; and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel.

## Remarks During a Tour of an Alternative Fuel Sources Exhibit in Abu Dhabi

January 14, 2008

It's amazing, isn't it? This country has gotten its wealth from the ground and is now reinvesting in alternative forms of energy, sometimes joint venturing with U.S. institutions, like MIT.

[*At this point, the tour continued, and no transcript was provided. The remarks continued as follows.*]

It's a modern society that is using its wealth not only to educate its people but to stay on the leading edge of technological change.

And, Your Highness, it's been an amazing experience for me. And I don't think most Americans understand the UAE. And I don't think most Americans understand that your education systems are modern and that you're thinking about the future in constructive ways. I appreciate the chance to learn about you.

[*The tour continued, and no transcript was provided. The remarks later concluded as follows.*]

My hope is my visit shines a spotlight on the Middle East, the opportunities to work constructively with our friends and allies, and shows people the truth about what life is like here in the UAE. This is a remarkable place. The architecture is beautiful, but the can-do spirit is amazing.

And we just heard a briefing about how they're going to construct a city based entirely upon renewable energy. It is—it will be an opportunity to see what works, what won't work, and an opportunity to share that technology with others.

And I appreciate the commitment to conservation and to the environment that the leadership has shown here. This has been a very interesting experience. I can't thank you enough for your hospitality.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:37 a.m. at the Emirates Palace Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Crown Prince Muhammad bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan of Abu Dhabi.

## Remarks Prior to a Discussion With Young Arab Leaders in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

January 14, 2008

*President Bush.* Thank you, sir. I'm proud to be with you. Your Highness, thank you very much. I appreciate you picking this particular location, because it is a fantastic view of your—of Dubai.

First of all, just a couple of impressions: I'm most impressed with what I've seen here. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong and, equally importantly, the desire to make sure that all aspects of society are—

have hope and encouragement. And I appreciate your leadership, Your Highness.

And I want to thank you, sir, for having me. I'm looking forward to talking to the young leaders from around the region. I am going to answer your questions. And I also want you to understand something about America: that we respect you, we respect your religion, and we want to work together for the sake of freedom and peace.

And I thank—I'm particularly pleased to know that you have set up interchanges with some of the young in my country.

You'll find them to be compassionate, decent people who share the same goals and dreams. And so I want to thank you for coming.

Your Highness, I'm so honored by your hospitality.

*Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktum.* Thank you, sir. It is our pleasure to have you.

*President Bush.* Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:22 p.m. at the Burj Al Arab Hotel.

## Interview With Journalists in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia January 15, 2008

*White House Press Secretary Dana Perino.* We'll start on the record, just some general comments and answer a couple of questions. And then if you feel like you want to go off the record, then we'll ask them to turn their tape recorders off.

*The President.* Okay, I'd like to go off the record. [Laughter]

*Q.* Give us a couple. [Laughter]

*The President.* We'll start with the older people first. [Laughter]

### *Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice/Iraq*

*Q.* Well, one of the things that we were all interested in is Secretary Rice going to Iraq. When did you decide about that, and what's that all about?

*The President.* Decided when it looked like that there was serious momentum on the legislative front, that she could help push the momentum by her very presence. So I can't remember the exact moment; I would say it was maybe 10 days ago or something like that, when we were getting word that their budget moving, the de-Ba'ath law was on its—it had gone through two readings, I think, before the holidays. So it seemed to make sense that she go sit down with the—and the Presidency

Council happened to meet yesterday, which was good. So she's going to go and sit down with the leaders and encourage them to continue making progress.

*Q.* But not you, you decided it wasn't right for you to go.

*The President.* Yes. Yes, I decided it was best for Condi to go. I'm not going.

By the way, I talk to the Prime Minister quite frequently on secure SVTS, which is a real-time feed from our Embassy in Baghdad to the Situation Room in the White House. And we meet biweekly. I meet with Ryan Crocker and David—General Petraeus weekly, and it's like a meeting.

*Q.* So she's just in and out? This is real quick?

*The President.* Yes, she'll be back this evening; probably hold a press conference here this evening. The Saudis want to have a press conference with the Foreign Minister and Condi. Yes, it's just a quick trip.

*White House Press Secretary Perino.* Timing and location are still being worked out.

*The President.* Time and location because, you know, you don't want to set