

I will talk to Martha Raddatz [ABC News].

*Israel/Iran*

Q. Let me follow up on that. Would you strongly discourage Israel from going after Iran militarily? And do you believe, when you leave office, Iran will be pursuing a nuclear weapon?

*The President.* I have made it very clear to all parties that the first option ought to be to solve this problem diplomatically. And the best way to solve it diplomatically is for the United States to work with other nations to send a focused message, and that is, that you will be isolated and you will have economic hardship if you continue trying to enrich.

As you might remember, I worked closely with Vladimir Putin on this issue. When I said that—when asked at one of these innumerable press conferences, “Did you—do you think they ought to have a civilian nuclear program?” I said, “Of course, they should, but they can’t be trusted to enrich.”

And therefore, I agree with Russia that Russia—when Russia said she will provide enriched uranium for a civilian nuclear power program and will collect the enriched uranium, thereby negating the need for the Iranian regime to enrich at all.

And so we will continue working diplomatically.

Listen, thank you very much. I’ve enjoyed being with you. I hope you’ve enjoyed being with me. You haven’t? Thank you.

NOTE: The President’s news conference began at 10:31 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Daniel M. Price, in his capacity as personal representative (sherpa) of the President in preparation for the G–8 summit; and Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, in his former capacity as President of Russia.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2008  
*July 2, 2008*

I send greetings to all Americans on Independence Day.

More than two centuries ago, bold and courageous visionaries pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor in signing the Declaration of Independence. Guided by ancient and eternal truths, our forefathers proclaimed to the world that liberty was the natural right of all mankind and in doing so began one of the greatest chapters in human history. On the Fourth of July, our country commemorates the great achievements of these heroes and reaffirms its unwavering confidence in the power of freedom.

It was the desire for freedom that inspired our Founding Fathers, and it is the belief in the universality of freedom that guides our Nation. On this occasion, we pay special tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces, both past and present, who have answered freedom’s call and defended the values that make America the greatest country on earth.

May God bless America.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

## Remarks at a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

July 3, 2008

Thank you very much, Deputy Secretary England, for that generous introduction. I am so honored to be here at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. This is often called the President's hospital. The reason why is this is where the President gets medical care. But I'm relieved today not to be on the treadmill, weighing in, and getting a blood test. [Laughter] I also will tell you that the care that the President gets here is extraordinary.

I am so excited to be here for what is a grand occasion. This is a big deal, the breaking ground of a new joint medical facility for the men and women of our Armed Forces. Thank you all for joining us.

In a few years, the current campus at Walter Reed will close, and many of its services will be relocated to the new complex here on the grounds at Bethesda. The two hospitals will be merged into one central campus, which will be called the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. At this new center, wounds will be healed, medical knowledge will be advanced, lives will be rebuilt, and those who wear our Nation's uniform will be reminded that they have the enduring gratitude of the American people.

I thank all who serve Walter Reed and Bethesda. I love being with the healers and caregivers and incredibly compassionate people who makes our current facility successful and will make this new center a great success.

Congressman, thank you very much for joining us. I know you are proud that this new facility is in your congressional district. Thank you for working hard to see this vision become a reality.

Lieutenant Governor, proud to be with you. This man wear the uniform of the United States military, and I'm proud to

be with this veteran and now public servant for the State of Maryland.

Members of the administration who are here, thank you all for coming. Chaplain York, thanks for the blessings. And all those who wear the uniform, thanks for sacrificing for the country.

This morning, we gather in a place that was chosen by another President to be the site of a world-class naval hospital. When President Franklin Roosevelt dedicated Bethesda in the early years of World War II, he placed this facility on the frontlines of what he called the "battle against disease, disability, and death." The military surgeons and nurses, scientists and technicians, he said, "are anonymous heroes of this war."

More than six decades later, our Nation is engaged in a very different battle for our freedom. Yet our success still relies on these "anonymous heroes," the healers who care for the troops, those troops who keep the American people safe. In this new war, giving our troops the care they deserve requires cutting-edge medical facilities. And that is what this new medical center will provide.

When the construction is complete, this facility will encompass 345 beds and 6.7 million square feet. It will join the resources of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and make it easier for medical professionals in all three services to collaborate and care for the patients. Our troops and their families will no longer have to travel between Bethesda and Walter Reed to see multiple specialists. The new complex will also benefit from the good work of the Dole-Shalala Wounded Warriors Commission, which has issued recommendations for modernizing and improving our military health care system. Those recommendations will provide