

**President's Birthday**

**Q.** Mr. President, what else are you going to do for your birthday?

**President Bush.** I have a national security briefing. I'm going to speak to Mr. Putin this morning. Part of it's just to kind of continue our general conversation on world affairs. I've got a few specific things I want to talk to him about; he probably has some things on his mind.

And then I'm going to throw some horse-shoes, probably regain the family championship.

**Former President Bush.** No. No way. [Laughter]

**President Bush.** Fishing. And I might go for a jog, too—complete the day. So if you see a rather old guy, kind of moving along slowly, that will be me. [Laughter]

**President's Discussion With President Putin**

**Q.** Can you tell us what you plan to talk to the Russian President about?

**President Bush.** No. [Laughter] No, he asked to call—I presume he's calling to wish me a happy birthday. If not, I'll remind him it's my birthday, so he can do that. But I look forward to talking to him.

We left some—you know, I told him I'd stay in touch with him. I want to talk to him about Iraq. So to answer your question, yes, I'm going to talk to him about Iraq. I'm going to talk to him about the Balkans, Macedonia. I know it's on his mind; it's on my mind, as well. And I look forward to listening to what he has to say. It'll just be a series of conversations we have over the summer.

As you know, I'm going to see him in a couple of weeks. I look forward to continuing what has been a very good relationship. And it's important that I have a good relationship with Mr. Putin, because it's good for the—it's good for our nations, and it's also good for the world for us to develop a good relationship so we can work together to make the world more secure.

And we share common interests. He's deeply concerned about extremism and what extremism can mean to Russia. And as you know, I am, too. He recognizes there are new threats in the 21st century. The United States is not a threat, and we can work cooperatively

to address the new threats of the 21st century.

We're beginning some bilateral dialogs with Russia here in a while. I want to make sure—I want to confirm to him that Evans and O'Neill—Secretaries Evans and O'Neill are looking forward to going over there. So we'll talk a little trade and economic activity, and then—I don't know what he wants to talk about.

**Q.** Happy birthday, again.

**Former President Bush.** We're off.

**President Bush.** Have fun. I'll try not to do too many public events, so you all can kick back and relax. [Laughter]

NOTE: The exchange began at 7 a.m. at the Cape Arundel Golf Club. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Former President Bush referred to former Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Statement on the Death****of Heinz C. Prechter**

*July 6, 2001*

Laura and I were saddened to hear of the death of Heinz Prechter. He will be missed. He was a great friend of ours as well as the entire Bush family. He was an honorable and loyal man. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this very difficult time.

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**Digest of Other  
White House Announcements**


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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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**July 1**

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House.