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Statement on the Death of Iraqi Governing Council President Izz al-Din al-Salim

May 17, 2004

On behalf of the American people, I condemn the brutal act of terrorism against Iraqi Governing Council President Izz al-Din al-Salim and several Iraqi citizens. Mr. Salim was a man of courage who risked his life in pursuit of a free, democratic, and prosperous Iraq. I offer our deepest condolences to the victims' families. I pray that God may give them strength in this hour of grief.

On June 30, the flag of a free Iraq will be raised, and Iraq's new interim government will assume sovereign authority. The terrorists know that a free Iraq will be a major defeat for the cause of terror, so they are trying to shake our confidence and will. The terrorists have found little support among the Iraqi people. The vast majority of Iraqi people want a free society. And the terrorists will find no success in their attempts to shake the will of America and our coalition.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 17, 2004

On May 20, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13047, certifying to the Congress under section 570(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208), that the Government of Burma has committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma after September 30, 1996, thereby invoking the prohibition on new investment in Burma by United States persons contained in that section. The President also declared a national emergency to deal with the threat posed to the national security and foreign policy of the United States by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, invoking the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq*. On July 28, 2003, I issued Executive Order 13310 taking additional steps with respect to that national emergency by putting in place an import ban required by the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 and prohibiting exports of financial services to Burma and the dealing in property in which certain designated Burmese persons have an interest.

Because actions and policies of the Government of Burma continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on May 20, 1997, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond May 20, 2004. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Burma. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 17, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:18 a.m., May 18, 2004]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 17, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2004, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19, 2003.

The crisis between the United States and Burma, constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including

its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 17, 2004.

Remarks to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee

May 18, 2004

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Please be seated. Go ahead. Finally, AIPAC elected a president I could kiss. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be here at AIPAC. Thank you for such a warm welcome. It's good to be with so many friends, friends of mine and friends of Israel. For more than 50 years, the United States and Israel have been steadfast allies. AIPAC is one of the reasons why. You've worked tirelessly to strengthen the ties that bind our nations, our shared values, our strong commitment to freedom.

By defending the freedom and prosperity and security of Israel, you're also serving the cause of America. Our Nation is stronger and safer because we have a true and dependable ally in Israel. I appreciate—[*applause*]—I'm just getting warmed up. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Amy for her leadership. I appreciate you taking time to serve a cause that—in which you believe deeply. I want to thank Bernice for her willingness to serve as well. I've known Howard for a long time. He's effective. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the AIPAC board members for their friendship and leadership.

I'm honored to be in the presence of my friend the Ambassador from Israel, Danny Ayalon. I appreciate you being here, Danny.

Ehud Olmert is with us. Ehud, it's good to see you again. Thank you, sir. I remember the first time we visited in 1998. I had just been reelected as the Governor of Texas. I went to Israel, and Ehud welcomed me and three other Governors to, I guess, your office. You were the mayor, if I'm not mistaken, at that point in time. And you were focused on filling potholes and emptying the garbage of the people. [*Laughter*] But we struck up a good relationship then, and it's great to see you again.

I appreciate the other ministers who are here, some of whom I have met before, some of whom I have had not the honor of meeting. I know I met Tommy before. Appreciate you all being here. Welcome to America. Thank you, Tommy.

I'd like to also recognize many people this morning who are learning to participate in democracy. I'm told there are over 850 students here from 50 States. Make sure the Texas students behave well. [*Laughter*] Your mothers are watching. [*Laughter*] I know there are buses outside waiting to take you to Capitol Hill. I'm told—Howard told me there's over 500 meetings scheduled with Members of the Senate and the House. That is good news. I'm sure you're going to pass this message on to them: A free, prosperous, and secure Israel is in this Nation's national interest.

AIPAC is doing important work. I hope you know that. In Washington and beyond, AIPAC is calling attention to the great security challenges of our time. You're educating Congress and the American people on the growing dangers of proliferation. You've spoken out on the threat posed by Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons. You've always understood and warned against the evil ambition of terrorism and their networks. In a dangerous new century, your work is more vital than ever. I thank you for doing your part in the cause of freedom.

Our Nation and the nation of Israel have much in common. We're both relatively young nations, born of struggle and sacrifice. We're both founded by immigrants escaping religious persecution in other lands. We have both built vibrant democracies, built on the rule of law and market economies. And we're both countries founded on certain basic beliefs, that God watches over the affairs of men and values every life. These ties have