AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Iraqi Shiite cleric whose militia engaged in an uprising in Iraq that began in early April. The interviewer referred to Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraqi Shiite leader. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis of Greece

May 20, 2004

President Bush. Thank you for coming. I've really been looking forward to this discussion with our friend. Welcome. It's the first chance I have to wish you a happy Name Day—tomorrow, isn't it?

Prime Minister Karamanlis. Tomorrow, you know about that?

President Bush. I know about that, and I'm glad to do so.

We will talk about a lot of subjects—we've already covered quite a few—and then I'm going to host a lunch with the Prime Minister here shortly.

One of the topics I do want to discuss is the Olympic Games, how excited I am for your country to host the Olympic Games. I wish I could attend, but this is a political season. So instead, I'm sending my father to lead our delegation.

I want to thank you for your very close cooperation, working together to make sure the games are successful, that people are able to travel to your beautiful country in as secure an environment as possible. You're making very good progress, Mr. Prime Minister, and I appreciate your hard work. I know your intentions are to have this the best possible games, and for that, I'm grateful.

I look forward to continuing our discussion over lunch, and of course, I want to congratulate you for your—for the victories you achieved and look forward to working with you. Welcome.

Prime Minister Karamanlis. Thank you very much, Mr. President, and I would like to thank you for your warm hospitality. And since you raised the question of the Olympic Games, I would like to take the opportunity to say that we are doing everything humanly possible in terms of energy, resources, professionals, to secure really successful games, and I'm confident that we'll succeed.

President Bush. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:48 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Budget Legislation

May 20, 2004

I commend the House of Representatives for passing a responsible budget that meets our Nation's highest priorities of winning the war on terror, protecting the homeland, and helping our economy continue to create new jobs. This budget keeps tax relief flowing to married couples, families with children, and working people, while restraining overall spending and allowing the deficit to be cut in half in the next 5 years. I urge the Senate to follow the House's lead and pass this budget so that we can continue making progress on our shared agenda of building a safer, stronger, and better America.

Statement on the Anniversary of the Birth of the Republic of Cuba

May 20, 2004

On behalf of the people of the United States, I send greetings to all people of Cuban heritage who celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Republic of Cuba.

We stand firmly with the 11 million Cubans who still suffer under the repressive Castro dictatorship, and who dream of a prosperous and free future.

The United States is working for the day when a free Cuba will rejoin the community of democracies in the Americas. We will vigorously implement the recommendations of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba so that Cuba will reflect the vision of the great Cuban patriot Jose Marti: *"Con todos y para el bien de todos."* ("With all the people and for the good of all the people.")

May God bless the Cuban people.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.