

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on May 21, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, May 21, 2004

**Commencement Address at
Concordia University Wisconsin in
Mequon, Wisconsin**

May 14, 2004

Thank you all very much. Dr. Ferry, members of the faculty, trustees, and families, distinguished guests, most importantly, members of the Class of 2004, I appreciate the warm welcome to this fine university and to this great State. Thank you for such a wonderful welcome. I am honored to be with you on graduation day as you become proud alumni of CUW.

I thank you as well for the honorary degree. I kind of like the sound, “Dr. Bush.” [Laughter] I don’t think Laura is going to call me that. [Laughter]

My congratulations to my fellow honorees today, especially General Vessey, a fine officer who served our country with distinction and honor.

I’m here today with one of your alumni, Class of 2000. He can’t rise for applause because he’s working. But I want his parents to know he’s doing a really fine job. And everyone at Concordia can be very proud of Officer Scott Eichstaedt of the United States Secret Service.

I am told that when the name of your commencement speaker was announced on April the 1st—[laughter]—a lot of students thought it might be an April Fool’s Day joke. [Laughter] And some of you may still have doubts. I saw a person when I walked in, said, “Is it him, or is it the guy on ‘Saturday Night Live?’” [Laughter]

All of you have worked hard and have come far, and you can always be proud of the achievement we mark today. Through it all, you’ve had a lot of fine people standing with you. This graduating class is a credit to the superb and caring teachers at Concordia. And today we also honor the people who believed in you and prayed for you and paid

for you—[laughter]—the parents of the Class of 2004.

Many of today’s graduates are on your way to full-time ministry, and that commitment is one of the greatest that a man or woman can make. All of the graduates leave Concordia with a commission and a calling. In the Lutheran tradition, all work in an office, on a farm, in the home, or in the halls of government, should be done in the glory of God. And that is accomplished by doing our work with excellence and care and an awareness of the needs around us.

We find our examples in great lives. Important work in this world can be done by towering figures like Martin Luther, who changed history and your own lives with an act of conscience. Work of lasting value can also be done by a solitary soul, condemned and stripped of all power, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Every life holds the possibility of serving God. And in every great life, that possibility is realized in service. After all, Bonhoeffer said, “The Church is the Church only when it exists for others.”

This teaching of faith is confirmed in our daily experience. Many of us find that there is much more to life than getting and keeping. True fulfillment comes with the responsibilities we assume, to care for our families and to love a neighbor as we want to be loved ourselves. This is more than a familiar saying; it is the foundation of a meaningful life.

A person shows his or her character in kindness and charity, and what is true in our lives is also true in the life of our Nation. You can fairly judge the character of society by how it treats the weak, the vulnerable, the most easily forgotten. Our own country, at its best, strives to be compassionate, and this isn’t easy. Compassion is not merely a vague feeling of empathy; it is a demanding virtue. It involves action and effort and deep conviction, a conviction as old as Scripture and present at the founding of our country. We believe that everyone has a place and

a purpose in this world, that every life matters, that no insignificant person was ever born.

America rejects the ethic of sink or swim. America rejects social Darwinism, because strength is not the same as worth. Our greatest failures as a nation have come when we lost sight of our compassionate ideals in slavery, in segregation, and in every wrong that has denied the value and dignity of life. Our greatest strength as a nation is that we bravely face our flaws and do our best to make things right. Our greatest successes as a nation have come when we broadened the circle of protection and inclusion, and this work is not finished. We will press on until every person shares in the promise of our country.

The mission statement of this university directs each of you towards a life of service to the church and to the world. It's not my place to tell you how best to serve the church, but I do have a few thoughts about how you can make your mark in the world. Wherever you are headed, I urge you to do the work nearest you and help to build a more compassionate society.

First, America needs your efforts and energy in the fight against poverty and despair. A compassionate society does not look away from a man being dragged down by addiction or a mother being abandoned by the father of the child or boys and girls with no role models in life who wonder if anyone cares about them. These personal tragedies are often failures of love, and they must be answered with love and caring and kindness. Government can play many important roles, but it cannot take someone's hand and be their friend. You have that power. If you follow this calling, you can help transform our society, one heart, one soul at a time.

This call is heard and followed here in the Milwaukee area at Lutheran Counseling and Family Services. It was founded over 100 years ago to help children in need. Today, it offers services and counseling that help teens and preteens escape drug and alcohol abuse. When children hurt this deeply and this early, they often need an entirely new path, a new way. The CEO of the program, Dr. Chuck Meseck, says this: "The clinical work is important, but in helping a person, faith is what really heals them completely."

Around our country, there are so many people with loving hearts who despair at the suffering they see around them. And so I made a decision: Instead of ignoring or resenting religious charities and faith-based groups, this country will encourage these good works in every way we can. The Federal Government now allows faith-based groups to compete for billions of dollars in social service funding without being forced to change their identity and their mission. We must support the best, the most effective sources of compassion and hope, and we will not discriminate against people of faith.

Second, America needs your good heart in meeting a basic responsibility, to protect and honor life in all its seasons. A compassionate society shows a special concern for those at the beginning of life, those at the end of life, and those who struggle in life with disabilities. Most of you, at some point, will be called to care for a dying relative or a frail and aging parent or someone close to you with a terrible sickness. Often, in their pain and loneliness, they will feel they are nothing but a burden and worthless to the world, and you will need to show them that's not true. Our worth as human beings does not depend on our health or productivity or independence or any other shifting value the world might apply. Our worth comes from bearing the image of our Maker. And the hardest times of your life may be the most important, when you bear witness to this truth by your sacrifice and loving kindness to another soul.

This commitment to the value of every life also challenges our society. Technologies that have extended life also make treatment decisions harder at the end of life. New methods of research hold promise in treating disease. These innovations show the resourcefulness of humanity, and they must be guided by all the wisdom of humanity. Our standards must be high and clear and fixed. Life is not just a tool or a commodity or a means to other ends. Nothing good or just can be built on the destruction or suffering of others.

These convictions have deep roots in our Nation's founding. Our Declaration of Independence calls life an endowment of the Creator, and on Earth, an unalienable right. Applying this belief has always been a test of

our democracy. Your education has prepared you to add to these debates with respect for others and with confidence in your own beliefs. By your voice and by your example, all of you can help to build a culture of life in America.

Third, America needs your idealism to show the good heart of our country to the whole world. A compassionate society sees needs and suffering beyond its borders and cares enough to act. Americans show this care by adopting orphans from other lands, by resettling tens of thousands of refugees each year, by sending surgeons and dentists on medical missions, by spending years living among and serving people in faraway countries. The kingdom you serve is not bounded by coasts or rivers or checkpoints. The hymns you sing are sung in every language. The needs of all the world are your concern, and I hope that, with your generous spirit and global vision, you will point the way for others.

The moral ideals of America are also universal. Because we believe in the rights and dignity of our own citizens, we believe in the rights and dignity of people everywhere. So in Africa and elsewhere, we are leading the fight against AIDS and other diseases. Where there is famine, our country provides food. Where there is desperate poverty, our country provides developmental aid. Where there is natural disaster, even in hostile nations, America is eager to help. And where there is tyranny, oppression, and gathering danger to mankind, America works and sacrifices for peace and freedom. The liberty we prize is not America's gift to the world; it is the Almighty God's gift to all humanity.

At this hour, our fellow citizens are sacrificing for the security and freedom of Afghanistan and Iraq. Their mission is like others we have given to past generations in our military, to defeat the violent and to rescue the innocent. The mission of our military is also vital to the interests of America. We will not allow Afghanistan and Iraq to fall under the control of radicals and terrorists who are intent on our own destruction. On these matters, the compassion and the vital interests of our country speak as one: For the sake

of peace and for the sake of security, we stand strong for freedom.

The great events of these historic times can seem remote and beyond the control of individuals. Yet, we have recently seen how much difference, for good or ill, the choices of individual men and women can make. In Iraq, the cruelty of a few has brought discredit to their uniform and embarrassment to our country. The consequences of their failures of character reach well beyond the walls of a prison. Yet, those failures cannot diminish the honor and achievement of more than 200,000 military personnel who have served in Iraq since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The character of the men and women who wear our uniform has been shown in countless acts of goodness and decency and unselfish courage. Our American military comes from all parts of the country. Six are members of the graduating class, and we thank them all.

One person can do so much harm or so much good. One person can show the compassion and character of a whole country in an hour of testing. Never doubt that you can make a difference, because the call that comes to you is yours alone. And a great deal depends upon your answer. By bringing care and hope into other lives, you can fill your own life with purpose. By caring for life at every stage, you can make our country a more just and welcoming place. By showing the generosity of America, you can help change the world. Each of you has gifts to offer, and I am confident you will use those gifts where they are needed.

I wish you well on the journey ahead. I thank you for the warm welcome and the honorary degree. I leave today a proud member of the Concordia University Wisconsin Class of 2004.

May God bless you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the field house. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, president, Concordia University Wisconsin; and Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., USA (Ret.), former chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7785—National
Defense Transportation Day and
National Transportation Week, 2004**

May 14, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Each year, America's transportation system helps many travelers reach their destinations and carries more than 16 billion tons of freight worth almost \$12 trillion. In addition, our transportation systems play a critical role in deploying and sustaining our troops and their equipment around the world.

Throughout our history, advances in transportation have been at the forefront of progress. Last December, we celebrated the centennial of the Wright Brothers' first flight in North Carolina. The pioneering work of the Wright Brothers and subsequent improvements in aviation ushered in new eras of freedom and captured the imaginations of people around the world.

Today, our Nation proudly continues this tradition of innovation in all transportation fields. As we observe National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, we continue to modernize transportation, and we honor transportation professionals who help to keep our transportation systems secure, efficient, and reliable.

To recognize the men and women who work in the transportation industry and who contribute to our Nation's well-being and defense, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 21, 2004, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 16 through May 22, 2004, as National Transportation Week.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of May, in the

year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 18, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

**Proclamation 7786—National
Hurricane Preparedness Week, 2004**

May 14, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Hurricanes are among nature's most powerful forces, bringing destructive winds, tornadoes, and floods from torrential rains and ocean storm surges. Each year, several hurricanes develop off American shores in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. Some of these strike the United States coastline every year, causing numerous fatalities and costing billions of dollars in damage. Many Americans are vulnerable to the dangers of these storms.

In recent years, advances in how we predict and track these storms have improved preparedness and saved lives, but people living in hurricane-prone areas still must be prepared. The National Hurricane Center within the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recommends developing a family disaster plan, creating a disaster supply kit, and staying aware of current weather situations.

While citizens make preparations to keep themselves safe, the Federal Government is maintaining our commitment to improve forecasts to provide advance warning and to coordinate effective emergency response. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency is also working on a plan to better position disaster equipment and supplies, so Federal resources to support local emergency services arrive quickly.

While no policy can eliminate the threat that hurricanes pose to lives and property, cooperation among citizens and Federal, State, and local officials can reduce the dangers and provide a more effective response to these storms.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 16 through May 22, 2004, as National Hurricane Preparedness Week. I call upon government agencies, private organizations, schools, news media, and residents in hurricane-prone areas to share information about hurricane preparedness and response, and to implement steps to minimize storm damage and save lives. I also call upon Americans living in the coastal areas of our Nation to use this opportunity to learn more about how to protect themselves against the effects of hurricanes and tropical storms.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 18, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

Proclamation 7787—Small Business Week, 2004

May 14, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners are vital to our Nation's economic growth and prosperity. We celebrate Small Business Week to applaud the efforts of America's small business men and women in our communities.

Small businesses are a central part of America's economy. They create approximately 70 percent of new private sector jobs in this country. As our Nation's economy continues to grow stronger, we must encourage their spirit of enterprise.

To help small businesses invest and create more jobs, we have decreased the tax burden. We have given small business men and women a fair chance to bid on government contracts. We have a plan to create more opportunity for America's small businesses and workers by making health care costs more affordable and predictable; streamlining regulations and paperwork requirements; reducing frivolous lawsuits; making America less dependent on foreign sources of energy; and permanently eliminating the death tax.

In this Small Business Week, we salute America's small business owners and entrepreneurs and workers for their contributions to America's prosperity and for making our Nation better and stronger.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 16 through May 22, 2004, as Small Business Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achievements of small business owners and their employees and encourage and foster the development of new small businesses.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 18, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

Proclamation 7788—World Trade Week, 2004

May 14, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Participating in the world economy makes America's economy stronger. By opening new markets for American products and services, bringing lower prices and more choices to American consumers, and attracting foreign companies to invest and hire in the United States, free and fair trade helps create better jobs for American workers. During World Trade Week, we celebrate the benefits trade brings to our citizens, our economy, and to countries and people around the world.

Since World War II, the United States has led the world in advancing trade to create jobs for American workers, increase choice for consumers, and ensure that quality American goods and services are sold on every continent. Today, millions of American jobs depend on our goods and services being sold overseas, and foreign-owned companies and their suppliers employ millions of Americans here at home.

My Administration has aggressively negotiated trade agreements that slash foreign tariffs and remove the barriers to selling American goods and services around the world. Since 2001, we have entered into free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore and concluded negotiations with Australia, Morocco, the Dominican Republic, and five countries in Central America. Free trade agreement negotiations with Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Bahrain, Thailand, and five member countries of the Southern African Customs Union are in progress or about to begin. We are also working with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas that will form the world's largest common market and improve the lives of citizens in America and these countries. By opening foreign markets to American exports and encouraging foreign countries to set up operations in the United States, all of these agreements help create

more and better jobs in our Nation. They also help increase prosperity for our workers.

For American businesses and their employees to continue to outperform other countries, America must remain the best place to do business and invest capital. In addition, we must ensure that our citizens are prepared for the high-skilled jobs our economy is creating. By fostering an environment where the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes and by providing workers with the best skills and education in the world, we can maintain our country's economic leadership and help all our citizens achieve a better life.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 16 through May 22, 2004, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our Nation and the global economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 18, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

The President's Radio Address

May 15, 2004

Good morning. This week, our Nation was sickened by the murder of an American civilian, Nicholas Berg. The savage execution of this innocent man reminds us of the true nature of our terrorist enemy and of the stakes in this struggle. The terrorists rejoice in the killing of the innocent and have promised similar violence against Americans, against all free peoples, and against any Muslims who reject their ideology of murder. Their barbarism cannot be appeased, and their hatred cannot be satisfied. There's only one way to

deal with terror: We must confront the enemy and stay on the offensive until these killers are defeated.

And this is precisely what our Armed Forces and the forces of our coalition are doing. In and around Fallujah, U.S. marines are conducting joint patrols with local Iraqis to take back the city from Saddam loyalists and foreign fighters and other militants. In nearby towns, marines are conducting raids to disrupt enemy attacks on our supply routes and to root out anticoalition fighters.

To the south, in and around the cities of Najaf and Karbala, U.S. Army soldiers and Iraqi security forces are systematically dismantling the illegal militia led by the radical cleric Al Sadr that has incited violence and attempted to seize control. Iraqi security forces ejected elements of this militia from a mosque in Karbala that was being used to store ammunition. The Iraqi people oppose the actions of this illegal militia, and Shi'a religious leaders have called on it to withdraw. Recent days have seen demonstrations in which ordinary Iraqis have taken to the streets, calling on the militia to withdraw from their cities and towns.

As we attack and defeat the enemies of freedom in Iraq, we will continue to work with Iraqi leaders to build a free, democratic, and independent government. The United Nations special envoy, Mr. Brahimi, is now back in Iraq, consulting with diverse groups of Iraqis. In the next few weeks, important decisions will be made on the makeup of an interim government. And on June 30th, the flag of a free Iraq will be raised, and Iraq's new interim government will assume a sovereign authority.

America will keep its commitment to the independence and national dignity of the Iraqi people. Yet the vital mission of our military in helping to provide security will continue on July 1st and beyond. Under the leadership of Major General David Petraeus, coalition forces are training thousands of Iraqis to protect a free Iraq from external aggression and internal subversion. Our forces will remain in Iraq to assist the Iraqi people until Iraqis can secure their own country.

Our country has great respect for the Iraqi people, and we are determined to expose and punish the abuse of Iraqi detainees. Charges

have been filed against seven soldiers, and the first trial is set to begin next week. My administration and our military are determined that such abuses never happen again.

All Americans know that the actions of a few do not reflect the true character of the United States Armed Forces. No military in the history of the world has fought so hard and so often for the freedom of others. Today, our forces are keeping terrorists across the world on the run. They're helping the people of Afghanistan and Iraq build democratic societies, making America more secure. By their example, the people of those countries and of the countries around the world are coming to know that freedom is the answer to hopelessness and terror. Our service men and women are defending America with unselfish courage, and their achievements have brought pride and credit to this Nation.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:56 a.m. on May 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 14 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to American hostage Nicholas Berg, who was killed in Iraq in early May by senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Muqtada Al Sadr, Iraqi Shiite cleric whose militia engaged in an uprising in Iraq that began in early April; and Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, incoming chief, Office of Security Transition-Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the Peace Officers Memorial Service

May 15, 2004

Thank you all very much. I'm so very honored to join all of you in paying respects—our respects to our Nation's fallen law enforcement officers. Every year on this day, we pause to remember the sacrifice and faithful services of officers lost in the line of duty throughout our Nation's history. And we add to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial the names of men and women lost in the past year as well as some who fell in the line of duty in other times.

They accepted the hard responsibilities of a great and essential calling.

Our fallen officers died in service to justice and in defense of the innocent. They will never be forgotten by their comrades. They will never be forgotten by their country. And today, in the presence of so many families and friends they loved, our Nation pays tribute in pride and in gratitude.

I appreciate Chuck Canterbury's leadership and his friendship. I also want to thank Aliza Clark. I appreciate Jim Pasco as the executive director of the Fraternal Order of the Police, who has worked hard to make this a special event for those who grieve.

I want to thank my friend the Attorney General, John Ashcroft. He's doing a great job on behalf of the American people. I appreciate FBI Director Mueller, other members of my administration. I want to thank Duke Cunningham and other Members of Congress who have joined us.

I also thank all the family members who have come to Washington for this service. For each of you, there is a name on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial that will always stand apart. You feel the hurt and loss and separation, but I hope you don't feel alone. A lot of people are praying for you, and you can know today that our Nation will always remember the one you loved.

They were among the more than 800,000 men and women who serve as officers of the law in the United States. On the wall are the names of U.S. marshals and county sheriffs, deputies, State patrolmen, municipal police, Federal agents, Coast Guard officials and others who are in the business of protecting their fellow citizens. America's men and women in law enforcement carry different responsibilities and serve different jurisdictions. Yet in all of those jobs, we look for the same basic qualities of character, for personal discipline, alertness of mind, and courage. Our country and our neighborhoods depend on such people, and fortunately for us all, they keep coming forward.

We look for people like Sergeant Jason Pratt of the Omaha Police Department. He was shot last September at the age of 30, while helping a fellow officer pursue a suspect. A colleague said of Sergeant Pratt, "He was always willing to step up and take the

point." And when he died, more than 20 police officers were at the hospital with him. As the mayor of the city put it, "Omaha lost one of its protectors, but his family lost much more." These same words are true in every community, every time an officer of the law is taken from us.

When the innocent need defending, we look for people like Trooper Nik Green of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, who was shot and killed by a drug dealer resisting arrest. He died on the morning after Christmas on a stretch of highway just over a mile from his home, where he left behind a wife and three young daughters. This good man was also a youth pastor at First Baptist Church, where hundreds of his fellow State Troopers came to pay their final respects. The pastor said of Trooper Green, "He set a standard that we're left challenged by. We're going to hurt for a long, long time."

To bring help in desperate hours, we look for people like Patrick Hardesty of the Tucson Police Department. He was shot and killed by a fleeing suspect in a hit and run. Officer Hardesty had seen danger before, during his 20 years as a United States Marine. He is survived by his wife, their three children, and comrades who say they thought of him more as a brother than a friend. A colleague said of Officer Hardesty, "Even before he became a good cop, he was a really good man."

These are the characteristics we honor today, really good men. These officers and the others we recognize at this service reported to work not knowing that the day would bring the end of their watch. In the words of a colleague of one fallen officer, "We all take it for granted that they will come back home safe and sound after their shift. Then one day, they don't." That is a part of the heroism of law enforcement, knowing that the most routine calls can turn suddenly violent. In the worst of moments, that is the heroism that faces danger and risks all for the safety of strangers. And in every moment, our country is in debt to the men and women in patrol cars, on bikes, and on foot, and standing post, and we must never take them for granted.

The nearness to danger inspires a special loyalty among those who carry a shield and

enforce the law. And when one is lost, the family left behind is cared for and held close by the brotherhood of law enforcement. In the Memorial and in countless acts of love and kindness, the fallen are remembered and honored. And this afternoon on behalf of all Americans, I offer the respect of a grateful nation. Their calling in life was to keep the peace, and we pray they have found the peace in the almighty God.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:46 p.m. on the West Grounds at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Chuck Canterbury, national president, and James O. Pasco, Jr., executive director, National Fraternal Order of Police; and Aliza Clark, president, National Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary.

**Remarks at the Opening of the
Brown v. Board of Education
National Historic Site in Topeka,
Kansas**

May 17, 2004

Thank you all. Thanks a lot. Please be seated. Thank you all for coming out today. Cheryl, thank you very much for your kind introduction. I appreciate all the Brown family who are here. Justice Breyer. Governor Sebelius is with us today. Governor, thank you for being here. Leader Frist. Senator Brownback and Senator Roberts from the great State of Kansas. Congressman Jim Ryun, Congressmen Tiahrt, Moran, and Moore as well from Kansas. Congressman Elijah Cummings. Thank you for being here, Congressman. Proud you're here. Secretary Norton and Secretary Paige, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen:

I'm honored to join you at this historic place to mark a day and a decision that changed America for the better and forever. Fifty years ago today, nine judges announced that they had looked at the Constitution and saw no justification for the segregation and humiliation of an entire race. Here at the corner of 15th and Monroe and at schools like it across America, that was a day of justice, and it was a long time coming.

For millions of African descent, the experience of segregation began in chains and dark-

ness beneath the deck of a ship. A terrible civil war ended their slavery but did not end their oppression. Generations of African American citizens grew up and grew old under laws designed to demean them. Under the rule of Jim Crow, almost no detail of life escaped the supervision of cruel and petty men. The color of your skin determined where you could get your hair cut, which hospital ward you could be treated in, which park or library you could visit, or who you could go fishing with. And children were instructed early in the customs of racial division at schools where they never saw a face of another color.

This was codified cruelty at the service of racism. Segregation dulled the conscience of people who knew better. It fed the violence of people with malice in their hearts. And however it was defended, segregation could never be squared with the ideals of America.

The legal challenges to school segregation began more than 100 years before the Supreme Court heard the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. In 1849, African American parents brought suit against Boston's divided schools. Here in Kansas, segregation was challenged in several cases between 1881 and 1949. These early efforts did not bring victory, yet they inspired words and warnings that have spoken across the years. As Justice John Marshall Harlan wrote in his dissenting opinion in *Plessy v. Ferguson*: "In view of the Constitution, in the eye of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant ruling class of citizens. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful. The law regards man as man and takes no account of his surroundings or of his color."

The fulfillment of that vision decades later fell to a small group of earnest and tenacious lawyers. Two of them would travel thousands of miles together in a 1929 Ford, driving from courthouse to courthouse, with Charles Hamilton Houston and young Thurgood Marshall typing briefs in the car. They documented the often poor conditions of black-only schools, the holes in the roofs and dirt floors that ran with mud when it rained. And they pursued a strategy to bring down the whole sorry structure of segregation, case by case.

Eventually, in December of 1953, Thurgood Marshall stood before the Supreme Court as counsel in a consolidated action involving 4 States and nearly 200 plaintiffs, including 13 families from Topeka, Kansas. Many legal arguments were advanced in the case. Yet the stakes were summarized in the brief Marshall presented to the Court. It stated, "Separate but equal is legal fiction. There never was and never will be any separate equality." The Court agreed. As the decision was announced, some were waiting to see which Justices would be in dissent. The answer came when Chief Justice Warren declared that the opinion was unanimous.

The decision in *Brown versus Board of Education* did not end all segregation, did not even end school segregation for many years. The civil rights movement was still waiting on other heroes and cases and laws. Yet, all sides of the question knew that on May 17th, 1954, a line had been crossed in American history. The system of racial oppression in our country had lost its claim to legitimacy, and the rising demand for justice would not be denied.

Putting the *Brown* decision into effect would take Presidential orders and the presence of Federal troops and marshals and the courage of children. One of the children who integrated Central High School in Little Rock was Melba Pattillo. She recalls white students after gym class turning her shower to scalding. Others broke a bottle and tripped her on the glass, leaving scars that remain today.

Yet, Melba has other memories as well. She says, "I went in not through the side doors but up the front stairs, and there was a feeling of pride and hope that, yes, this is the United States. Yes, there is a reason I salute the flag, and it's going to be okay."

In the years after *Brown*, many would know the fears and insults this young woman had faced. A court can make an order, but it was the child that had to walk the gauntlet of slurs and jeers into a school. And America is still grateful to every child who made that walk.

In many ways, the events of those years seem long ago. We tend to think of them as the distant dramas of a different country.

Yet, segregation is a living memory, and many still carry its scars. The habits of racism in America have not all been broken. The habits of respect must be taught to every generation. Laws against racial discrimination must be vigorously enforced in education and housing and hiring and public accommodations. Many African Americans with no inheritance but their character need access to capital and the chance to own and build for the future. And while our schools are no longer segregated by law, they are still not equal in opportunity and excellence. Justice requires more than a place in a school. Justice requires that every school teach every child in America.

America has yet to reach the high calling of its own ideals. Yet we're a nation that strives to do right, and we honor those who expose our failures, correct our course, and make us a better people. On this day, in this place, we remember with gratitude the good souls who saw a great wrong and stood their ground and won their case. And we celebrate a milestone in the history of our glorious Nation.

Thank you for having me. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:06 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Cheryl Brown Henderson, president, Brown Foundation for Educational Equality, Excellence and Research; and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas.

Statement Calling for a Constitutional Amendment Defining and Protecting Marriage

May 17, 2004

The sacred institution of marriage should not be redefined by a few activist judges. All Americans have a right to be heard in this debate. I called on the Congress to pass and to send to the States for ratification an amendment to our Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of a man and a woman as husband and wife. The need for that amendment is still urgent, and I repeat that call today.

**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

made us natural allies, and these ties will never be broken.

In the past, however, there was one great difference in the experience of our two nations: The United States, through most of our history, has been protected by vast oceans to our east and west and blessed with friendly neighbors to our north and south. Israel has faced a different situation as a small country in a tough neighborhood. The Israeli people have always had enemies at their borders and terrorists close at hand. Again and again, Israel has defended itself with skill and heroism. And as a result of the courage of the Israeli people, Israel has earned the respect of the American people.

On September the 11th, 2001, Americans saw that we are no longer protected by geography from the dangers of the world. We experienced the horror of being attacked in our homeland, on our streets, and in places of work. And from that experience came an even stronger determination, a fierce determination to defeat terrorism and to eliminate the threat it poses to free people everywhere.

Not all terrorist networks answer to the same orders and same leaders, but all terrorists burn with the same hatred. They hate all who reject their grim vision of tyranny. They hate people who love freedom. They kill without mercy. They kill without shame, and they count their victories in the death of the innocent.

We saw the nature of this enemy again in recent days when terrorists in Iraq beheaded an American citizen, Nicholas Berg. The message that accompanied the videotape of this brutal slaying promised more such atrocities. Here's what the killer said: "We will send you coffin after coffin, box after box, slaughtered in this way." The faces of the terrorists were cloaked, but we have seen their kind before.

Followers of the terrorist ideology executed an elderly man in a wheelchair, Leon Klinghoffer, and pushed his body off the side of a ship into the sea. They kidnaped the journalist Daniel Pearl and cut his throat, because he was a Jew. This enemy has left blood on the streets of Jakarta and Jerusalem, Casablanca and Riyadh, Mombasa and Istanbul, Bali, Baghdad, and Madrid. They

have declared war on the civilized world, and war is what they got.

Freedom-loving people did not seek this conflict. It has come to us by the choices of violent men, hateful men. See, we seek peace. We long for peace. Israel longs for peace. America longs for peace. Yet, there can be no peace without defending our security. There is only one path to peace and safety. America will use every resource we have to fight and defeat these enemies of freedom.

The lesson of September the 11th is clear and must never be forgotten. Emerging terrorist threats must be confronted before they can reach our country and harm our people. Every terrorist is at war with civilization, and every group or nation that aids them is equally responsible for the murders that the terrorists commit.

So America has led a relentless global campaign against terrorists and their supporters. We're chasing them down one by one in caves and in shadows where they try to hide. We have uncovered terrorist cells on several continents. We've prevented a number of terrorist attacks. We've removed the Taliban regime, which sheltered the plotters of September the 11th. We have stopped shipments of chemical precursors and nuclear-related—weapons-related components bound for states that sponsor terror. By speaking clearly and by meaning what we say, countries like Libya have gotten the message and have renounced their weapons programs.

And for the sake of peace and security, we ended the regime of Saddam Hussein. That regime cast a shadow, a dark shadow of aggression over the Middle East for decades. They invaded both Iran and Kuwait. The regime built and used weapons of mass destruction against its neighbors and its own people. The regime sponsored terror and paid rewards of up to \$25,000 to the families of Palestinian homicide bombers. That regime defied the demands of the free world and America for more than a decade. And America is more secure and the world is better off because that regime is no more.

America is on the offensive, and we will stay on the offensive until the terrorists are stopped and our people are safe. I will use

every asset at our disposal to do our most important job, which is to protect the American people. And that includes the United States military.

We have come to know the skill and the courage of the men and women of the United States military. They have fulfilled every mission their country has given to them. They and their families have endured long deployments and uncertainty. Our men and women in uniform have fought in mountain passes and desert sands in the remotest part of the world. They've lost brave friends and comrades, who will always be remembered and honored by a grateful nation. They have done all this to defend our country and to advance the cause of freedom and peace. And their loved ones and those who wear our uniform must know that America is very grateful to their service.

The peace we seek depends on defeating the violent. Yet, we also have a larger mission in the world. In the long term, we must end terrorist violence at its source by undermining the terrorist ideology of hatred and fear. Terrorists find influence and recruits in societies where bitterness and resentment are common and hope and opportunity are rare. The world's best hope for lasting security and stability across the Middle East is the establishment of just and free societies.

And so across that vital region, America is standing for the expansion of human liberty. This historic task is not easy in a part of the world that has known so much oppression and stagnation and violence. It's hard work. Yet we must be strong in our firm belief that every human heart desires to be free. We must be strong in our belief that free societies are hopeful societies and peaceful societies.

We have made progress that few would have predicted or expected just 3 years ago. In Afghanistan, our coalition is working with President Karzai to help the people of Afghanistan build a modern, peaceful, and democratic government. In January, Afghans approved a new constitution that protects the right of all Afghan citizens, including women. Through weeks of negotiation and compromise, they agreed upon a fundamental law that respects tradition and establishes a foundation of modern political rights, includ-

ing free speech, due process, and a vote for every citizen. We're making progress.

In Iraq, Saddam's brutal dictatorship is gone, and in its place an Iraqi democracy is emerging. Iraqi leaders have signed a transitional administrative law that will guarantee basic freedoms. Iraq now has an independent judiciary, a free market, a new currency, more than 200 newspapers in circulation, and schools free of hateful propaganda.

It's hard work in Iraq. Our efforts are approaching a crucial moment. On June 30th, our coalition will transfer its authority to a sovereign Iraqi Government. With the assistance of the United Nations and our coalition, Iraqi citizens are currently making important decisions about the nature and scope of the interim government. In time, Iraq will be a free and democratic nation at the heart of the Middle East. This will send a message, a powerful message, from Damascus to Tehran that democracy can bring hope to lives in every culture. And this advance of freedom will bring greater security to America and to the world. These are historic times. It's an historic opportunity.

Yet, as June 30th approaches, the enemies of freedom grow even more desperate to prevent the rise of democracy in Iraq. That's what you're seeing on your TV screens, desperation by a hateful few, people who cannot stand the thought of free societies in their midst. They're targeting brave Iraqis who are leading toward democracy, such as Izz al-Din al-Salim, who was assassinated in Baghdad yesterday. They're murdering Iraqi policemen who stand as symbols of order. They're killing foreign aid workers who are helping to rebuild Iraq. They're attacking our military. Their goal is to undermine the will of our coalition and the will of America and to drive us out before our mission is complete. They're not going to succeed. They will not shake the will of America.

My resolve is firm. The resolve of the American people is solid. Our military is skilled; spirits are high. They are determined to succeed. We understand the stakes are high for America and for the world. We will not be intimidated by thugs and assassins. We will win this essential, important victory in the war on terror.

This is an historic moment. The world watches for weakness in our resolve. They will see no weakness. We will answer every challenge. U.S. Army soldiers and Iraqi security forces are systematically destroying the illegal militia in the south of Iraq. Coalition forces are working with Iraqis in Fallujah to end control by Saddam loyalists and foreign fighters. We're building up Iraqi security forces so they can safeguard their own country. We're flexible in our methods, but our goal is unchanging. Iraq will be free, and Iraq will be a democratic nation.

Freedom is also at the heart of our approach to bringing peace between Israel and the Palestinian people. The United States is strongly committed, and I am strongly committed, to the security of Israel as a vibrant Jewish state. Israel is a democracy and a friend and has every right to defend itself from terror.

For the sake of peace, this country is committed to helping the Palestinian people establish a democratic and viable state of their own. Israel needs a truly responsible partner in achieving peace. The Palestinian people deserve democratic institutions and responsible leaders. Progress towards this vision creates responsibilities for Israel, the Palestinian people, and Arab nations. Before these two states—before there can be two states, all parties must renounce violence and fight terror.

Security is the foundation for peace. All parties must embrace democracy and reform and take the necessary steps for peace. The unfolding violence in the Gaza Strip is troubling and underscores the need for all parties to seize every opportunity for peace. I supported the plan announced by Prime Minister Sharon to withdraw military installations and settlements from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. As I said in my statement on April 14, 2004, the Prime Minister's plan is a bold, courageous step that can bring us closer to the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

The Prime Minister's decision has given the Palestinian people and the free world a chance to take bold steps of their own toward peace. First, the Palestinian people must reject corrupt and failed leaders and insist on

a leadership committed to reform and progress and peace. Second, they must renounce terror and violence that frustrate their aspirations and take so many innocent lives. And finally, by taking these steps, they will have an opportunity, a fantastic opportunity, to build a modern economy and create the institutions and habits of liberty. The Palestinian people deserve a better future, and that future can be achieved through democracy.

Many in this room have worked and waited a lifetime for peace in the Holy Land. I hear that deep concern for peace. Our vision is a Middle East where young Israelis and Palestinians can play and learn and grow without living in the shadow of death. Our vision is a Middle East where borders are crossed for purposes of trade and commerce, not crossed for the purposes of murder and war. This vision is within our grasp if we have the faith and the courage and the resolve to achieve it.

Perhaps the deepest obstacle to peace is found in the hearts of men and women. The Jewish people have seen, over the years and over the centuries, that hate prepares the way for violence. The refusal to expose and confront intolerance can lead to crimes beyond imagining. So we have a duty to expose and confront anti-Semitism wherever it is found.

Some of you attended a very important event in Berlin last month, the International Conference on Anti-Semitism. You understand that anti-Semitism is not a problem of the past. The hatred of Jews did not die in a Berlin bunker. In its cruder forms, it can be found in some Arab media, and this Government will continue to call upon Arab governments to end libels and incitements. Such hatred can also take subtler forms. The demonization of Israel, the most extreme anti-Zionist rhetoric can be a flimsy cover for anti-Semitism and contribute to an atmosphere of fear in which synagogues are desecrated, people are slandered, folks are threatened. I will continue to call upon our friends in Europe to renounce and fight any sign of anti-Semitism in their midst.

We are living through historic times. We are called to do important work in the world. We will stand together against bigotry in

every land and every language. We will answer violent men with patient, determined justice. We will expand human freedom and the peace that freedom brings. And by our resolve and by our courage, we will prevail.

I want to thank you for your dedication to the security of America and to the safety of Israel. I want to thank you for your warm hospitality today. May God bless America. May God bless Israel. Thank you for coming. Thank you all for your time. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:53 a.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Amy Friedkin, president, board of directors, Bernice Manocherian, president-elect, and Howard Kohr, executive director, American Israel Public Affairs Committee; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister (Acting) Ehud Olmert, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Yosef "Tommy" Lapid of Israel; American hostage Nicholas Berg, who was killed in Iraq in early May by senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; and Iraqi Governing Council President Izz al-Din al-Salim, who was killed in a suicide car bomb attack on May 17 in Baghdad.

Statement on Establishing the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force

May 18, 2004

The Great Lakes are a national treasure that represents 20 percent of the world's fresh water. The Great Lakes region is an economic engine and recreational haven, and we are making great progress in protecting and restoring this vital natural resource.

To build on that progress, today I am establishing the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, chaired by EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt. The Task Force will address environmental and natural resource issues of national concern and better coordinate the region's sustainable development and restoration. It will harness the collective efforts of the Federal Government, Governors, mayors, Members of Congress, tribes, and citizen stewards to ensure that the greatness of the lakes endures for generations. The Task Force will also consult with the Government of Canada on the most effective way forward

on addressing past and current environmental impacts to the Great Lakes ecology.

Executive Order 13340— Establishment of Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and Promotion of a Regional Collaboration of National Significance for the Great Lakes

May 18, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to help establish a regional collaboration of national significance for the Great Lakes, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The Great Lakes are a national treasure constituting the largest freshwater system in the world. The United States and Canada have made great progress addressing past and current environmental impacts to the Great Lakes ecology. The Federal Government is committed to making progress on the many significant challenges that remain. Along with numerous State, tribal, and local programs, over 140 Federal programs help fund and implement environmental restoration and management activities throughout the Great Lakes system. A number of intergovernmental bodies are providing leadership in the region to address environmental and resource management issues in the Great Lakes system. These activities would benefit substantially from more systematic collaboration and better integration of effort. It is the policy of the Federal Government to support local and regional efforts to address environmental challenges and to encourage local citizen and community stewardship. To this end, the Federal Government will partner with the Great Lakes States, tribal and local governments, communities, and other interests to establish a regional collaboration to address nationally significant environmental and natural resource issues involving the Great Lakes. It is the further policy of the Federal Government that its executive departments and agencies will ensure that their programs are

funding effective, coordinated, and environmentally sound activities in the Great Lakes system.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For purposes of this order:

(a) "Great Lakes" means Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron (including Lake Saint Clair), Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior, and the connecting channels (Saint Marys River, Saint Clair River, Detroit River, Niagara River, and Saint Lawrence River to the Canadian Border).

(b) "Great Lakes system" means all the streams, rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water within the drainage basin of the Great Lakes.

Sec. 3. Great Lakes Interagency Task Force.

(a) Task Force Purpose. To further the policy described in section 1 of this order, there is established, within the Environmental Protection Agency for administrative purposes, the "Great Lakes Interagency Task Force" (Task Force) to:

- (i) Help convene and establish a process for collaboration among the members of the Task Force and the members of the Working Group that is established in paragraph b(ii) of this section, with the Great Lakes States, local communities, tribes, regional bodies, and other interests in the Great Lakes region regarding policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities, and priorities for the Great Lakes system.
- (ii) Collaborate with Canada and its provinces and with bi-national bodies involved in the Great Lakes region regarding policies, strategies, projects, and priorities for the Great Lakes system.
- (iii) Coordinate the development of consistent Federal policies, strategies, projects, and priorities for addressing the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes system and assisting in the appropriate management of the Great Lakes system.
- (iv) Develop outcome-based goals for the Great Lakes system relying upon, among other things, existing data and science-based indicators of water

quality and related environmental factors. These goals shall focus on outcomes such as cleaner water, sustainable fisheries, and biodiversity of the Great Lakes system and ensure that Federal policies, strategies, projects, and priorities support measurable results.

- (v) Exchange information regarding policies, strategies, projects, and activities of the agencies represented on the Task Force related to the Great Lakes system.
 - (vi) Work to coordinate government action associated with the Great Lakes system.
 - (vii) Ensure coordinated Federal scientific and other research associated with the Great Lakes system.
 - (viii) Ensure coordinated government development and implementation of the Great Lakes portion of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.
 - (ix) Provide assistance and support to agencies represented on the Task Force in their activities related to the Great Lakes system.
 - (x) Submit a report to the President by May 31, 2005, and thereafter as appropriate, that summarizes the activities of the Task Force and provides any recommendations that would, in the judgment of the Task Force, advance the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.
- (b) Membership and Operation.
- (i) The Task Force shall consist exclusively of the following officers of the United States: the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (who shall chair the Task Force), the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of the Army, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. A member of the Task Force may designate, to perform the Task Force functions of the

member, any person who is part of the member's department, agency, or office and who is either an officer of the United States appointed by the President or a full-time employee serving in a position with pay equal to or greater than the minimum rate payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule. The Task Force shall report to the President through the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.

- (ii) The Task Force shall establish a "Great Lakes Regional Working Group" (Working Group) composed of the appropriate regional administrator or director with programmatic responsibility for the Great Lakes system for each agency represented on the Task Force including: the Great Lakes National Program Office of the Environmental Protection Agency; the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and United States Geological Survey within the Department of the Interior; the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce; the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Department of Transportation; the Coast Guard within the Department of Homeland Security; and the Army Corps of Engineers within the Department of the Army. The Working Group will coordinate and make recommendations on how to implement the policies, strategies, projects, and priorities of the Task Force.

(c) Management Principles for Regional Collaboration of National Significance. To further the policy described in section 1, the Task Force shall recognize and apply key principles and foster conditions to ensure successful collaboration. To that end, the Environmental Protection Agency will coordinate the development of a set of principles of successful collaboration.

Sec. 4. Great Lakes National Program Office. The Great Lakes National Program Of-

fice of the Environmental Protection Agency shall assist the Task Force and the Working Group in the performance of their functions. The Great Lakes National Program Manager shall serve as chair of the Working Group.

Sec. 5. Preservation of Authority. Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, regulatory, and legislative proposals. Nothing in this order shall be construed to affect the statutory authority or obligations of any Federal agency or any bi-national agreement with Canada.

Sec. 6. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 18, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 19, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 20.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

May 19, 2004

The President. Thank you for coming. I've just met with my Cabinet to discuss a variety of issues. We spent a lot of time talking about the situation in Iraq. I detailed our plan and our strategy to transfer full sovereignty to the Iraqi people on June the 30th. I reminded them that a lot of progress has been made already toward that transfer. Eleven ministries are now run by Iraqi citizens—I might add, capably run by Iraqi citizens.

I discussed with the Cabinet the plans of Mr. Brahimi, the U.N. representative who is consulting with Iraqi leadership and Iraqi citizenry, as well as our own Government officials there, about the interim government and who will occupy the positions of responsibility in that government. I anticipate in the next couple of weeks decisions will be made toward who will be the President and the Vice Presidents as well as the Prime Minister and other ministers.

Thirdly, we talked about the U.N. Security Council resolution, which is—the Secretary is moving forward. He's in consultations with Security Council members—a Security Council resolution which will embrace the new interim government and the need to provide security so that free elections will happen as promised to the Iraqi people.

We've got hard work to do. I told my Cabinet we've got hard work to do. After all, we saw the vivid savagery of the enemy. The decapitation of a U.S. citizen reminds us all about the barbaric nature of those who are trying to stop progress toward freedom. We understand the nature of that enemy. We also understand the nature of our brave troops. They're motivated. They're skilled. They're well trained. They will accomplish the mission.

Then I talked about the economy. We're pleased with the economic progress here in America. After all, the growth rates are high. New jobs are being created; 1.1 million new jobs since last August have been created by the entrepreneurs and small-business owners and risktakers of America. And that's positive.

I am concerned about the price of gasoline at the pump. I fully understand how that affects American consumers, how it crimps the budgets of moms and dads who are trying to provide for their families, how it affects the truck driver, how it affects the small-business owner.

I anticipated this 3 years ago. I asked my team to put together a strategy to make us less dependent upon foreign sources of energy. I submitted that plan to the United States Congress. Now we want people to have it both ways, just like they've tried to have it both ways over the last couple of years. On the one hand, they decry the price

at the pump, and on the other hand, they won't do anything about it. They won't take action. Congress needs to pass the energy plan.

We had a very interesting discussion about capacity. For example, had ANWR been passed—had it not been vetoed in the past, we anticipate an additional million barrels of oil would have been coming out of that part of the world, which would obviously have a positive impact for today's consumers.

And so it's time for some action here to get us less dependent. They need to pass that which I have submitted to Congress, so this country will become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

All in all, we're upbeat about the spread of freedom and peace and the ability for our fellow citizens to find work.

Let me answer two questions, starting with Lindlaw [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

Israeli Military Shelling Demonstrators

Q. Thanks, Mr. President. You've called for maximum restraint from both sides in the Middle East. Today Israel's military acknowledged they fired four tank shells, machine guns, a missile into a crowd of demonstrators. One, was it justified? Two, what are you telling them, and what are you hearing?

The President. I continue to urge restraint. It is essential that people respect innocent life, in order for us to achieve peace. And we'll get clarification from the Government. I haven't had a chance to speak to the Government or be briefed. But I am—I will continue to speak out about the need for all parties to respect innocent life in the Middle East.

Caren [Caren Bohan, Reuters].

Gasoline Prices/Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Q. Sir, Senator Kerry has suggested halting shipments to the emergency oil reserves. Your energy bill is a long-term strategy. What are some short-term steps that can be taken?

The President. If people had acted on my energy bill when I submitted it 3 years ago, we would be in a much better situation today.

Secondly, we will not play politics with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. That Petroleum Reserve is in place in case of major

disruptions of energy supplies to the United States. The idea of emptying the Strategic Petroleum Reserve plays—would put America in a dangerous position in the war on terror. We're at war. We face a tough and determined enemy on all fronts, and we must not put ourselves in a worse position in this war. And playing politics with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would do just that.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:04 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and American hostage Nicholas Berg, who was killed in Iraq in early May by senior Al Qaeda associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring NCAA Winter Champion Teams

May 19, 2004

The President. Thanks for coming.

Audience member. We'll be back. [Laughter]

The President. Whoever said, "We'll be back," it sounds like the Connecticut women's basketball team.

I'm glad you all are here. This is what we call Champions Day. It is my high honor to welcome champions to the White House. I appreciate—I notice we've got a lot of folks from Connecticut here. [Laughter] Yes. We've got two fine United States Senators in Chris Dodd and Joe Lieberman. We're proud you're here. Nancy Johnson is here with us today. Chris Shays—you made it. Very good. And Rob Simmons is with us as well. Yes, there you go. [Laughter]

They're here because Connecticut—University of Connecticut has done something really unusual. They have a women's champion and a men's champion in the same year, and we're proud to welcome them here. Maybe now is the moment that I should admit that I was born in Connecticut. [Laughter]

I want to thank Phil Austin for being here. Geno, welcome back. Geno is—he's obviously a great coach. And he is a fellow who—

I've watched the games, and I've watched his attitude, and no wonder Connecticut women's basketball does so well, because he knows how to win. And I'm proud to have him back. This is the third year that the Connecticut ladies have been here since I've been the President.

And Jim Calhoun is also a great coach and a fine man as well. Coach Calhoun looked at me and said, "I wonder if you're a point guard." I said, "I couldn't even touch the net." [Laughter] But he's got some people that can touch the net on his team. And both these champs really worked hard to get here—both these teams worked hard to get here, with great coaches. And I'm proud to welcome them here to the White House.

University of Denver—one of your—well, you've got a couple of alumni who work for me. One is Gale Norton, who is the Secretary of the Interior. Welcome, Gale. I'm glad you're here. The other one is Condi Rice, and I told her to keep working. [Laughter] No rest for the weary. [Laughter]

I appreciate Marc Holtzman and George Gwozdecky, who is the head coach, for joining us as well. We've got Wayne Allard, who is the United States Senator from Colorado, with us. Scott McInnis and Diana DeGette is with us as well. Diana, thanks for coming. We're glad you all are here, proud the good folks from Colorado are here.

Laura Halldorson is the coach of the University of Minnesota women's hockey team. I welcome the team here. I also welcome Senators Norm Coleman and Mark Dayton. Where is Senator Dayton—he was a fine goalie, by the way.

Audience member. Long ago.

The President. Yes, long ago. [Laughter]

Martin Sabo, the Congressman, is with us. Martin, thank you for coming. We're proud we've got so many here. I was pleased to know that the University of Minnesota women's hockey team's slogan this year was, "Get it done, and meet George." [Laughter] It's my pleasure to meet you. [Laughter] You beat Harvard, and you became the first women's team in school history to win a national championship, and that's got to make you feel great. Congratulations.

I had met one of your players before. I warned her I was going to say this, but Krissy

Wendell, who plays for the Minnesota team, and I met at the Winter Olympics. It was there that she handed me a cell phone so I could speak to her mother. [Laughter] I worked hard to convince her mother it was actually the President speaking to her. [Laughter] I tried as hard as I could to sound exactly like myself. [Laughter] I will never, however, forget what her mother said. She said, "I just want you to know, I'm praying for you." And I told Krissy, when she talked to her mother, tell her how—that was—it meant a lot, and tell her mom, thanks.

I also am really glad that the women's team is here. I'm sorry that Diana is not here. She's making a living. [Laughter] It's part of the economic recovery package. [Laughter] She goes to college, and she gets a really good job with the WNBA Phoenix Mercury.

But these women know how to play basketball, and they're tough competitors. I think a lot of people probably wrote Geno's team out pretty early in the year. It seemed like the field was really a competitive field this year, and a lot of people probably said, "Well, they don't have it. They're kind of burned out. Maybe don't have what it takes." And in fact, these women show they do have what it takes. They've got great courage, great desire, and I'm really happy you're back.

And I'm really happy the men's team is here as well. It's—the NCAA Final Four is some kind of exciting for a lot of sports fans. And the Duke game was really an exciting game, and I know the people of Connecticut were—Connecticut fans were incredibly thrilled that Calhoun and his men are here today. And I am too—glad you're here.

And then there's the University of Denver hockey team—the men's hockey team. They won their first national championship in 35 years. This team wasn't expected to win either. It just goes to show you, don't write people out, particularly those who have got desire and character. You just don't write them off. You just—you never kind of take anything for granted.

I like the story of Lukas Dora. Where are you, Lukas? There you go. Lukas is from the Czech Republic. He said—they tell me he

talks a lot on the ice. He's a talkative guy, but he uses unique English to confuse the opponents. [Laughter] Kind of sounds like the strategy I use at the press conferences. [Laughter]

They're champs on the court. They're champs on the ice. They've got to be champs off the court and ice too, to be true champs. You've got an opportunity now, with the spotlight on you as champions, to make a difference in the communities in which you live. Here's a chance—a chance to be more than just an athlete. It's a chance to be a hero to somebody who needs a role model, somebody who—like when you go to visit the children in the hospital—and I know you do—somebody, when you touch their life—you go in as a champ, and you touch a life, and somebody feels better as a result of a little love and compassion, or serving food, or helping with toy drives. All of it matters, see. All of it counts.

And now that you've got the spotlight on you, I hope you continue to seize that moment and make America a better place, by changing a heart and a soul, one person at a time. See, true champs are those that show courage and work hard to win, but they're also people who show compassion and love and decency when given the chance.

We're welcoming true champs here to the White House, and it's my high honor to do so. Congratulations for what you have done. May God continue to bless you all, your schools, and your families. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Phil Austin, president, Geno Auriemma, women's basketball head coach, Diana Taurasi, former player, and Jim Calhoun, men's basketball head coach, University of Connecticut; Marc Holtzman, president, and George Gwozdecky, men's hockey head coach, University of Denver. The President honored the University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball teams, the University of Denver men's hockey team, and the University of Minnesota women's hockey team.

Statement on Senate Passage of Legislation To Implement Project BioShield

May 19, 2004

I commend the Senate for passing legislation that will bolster the Nation's defenses against biological, chemical, radiological, and nuclear threats. Project BioShield will speed the development of new vaccines and treatments that would help prevent harm to Americans in a terrorist attack. This legislation carries out my proposal to encourage accelerated research and development of medical countermeasures based on the latest scientific discoveries, provides for rapid stockpiling of critical new drugs and vaccines, and makes these treatments available quickly in emergency situations. America is more secure today because we have placed a strong emphasis on homeland defense, and initiatives like Project BioShield are another important step in winning the war on terror.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy

May 19, 2004

President Bush. Thank you for coming. You just interrupted a conversation about how we're working on a strategy to help the Iraqis become a free nation.

First, I want to thank my friend Silvio Berlusconi for being here this evening. He's a man of good judgment, good advice, and he's a good friend. And after we have dinner, we're going to go to the Sons of Italy banquet tonight.

I also want to thank the Italian people for the great humanitarian mission that they're undertaking in Iraq. I appreciate their contribution to a free society in a part of the world that is desperate for freedom.

The Prime Minister and I have spent time working on a strategy that's based upon the following points: One, there will be a full transfer of sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government on June the 30th. That will be accompanied by a United Nations Security Council resolution. He had some very good

ideas about what should be in that resolution. I, of course, listened to his good ideas.

We also talked about the need to make sure there is a security force to help the Iraqis move toward elections. It's tough work there now, because killers want to stop progress. It will be tough work after sovereignty is transferred, because there will still be people there trying to derail the election process. And that's why one of the discussion points we had was how to continue to broaden the coalition. And finally, we talked about how to make sure that Iraq does have free elections, as Mr. Brahimi has scheduled.

It's an easy conversation to have with Silvio, because we share values. We believe in human rights, human dignity, rule of law, and the right for people to self-govern.

And so I'm proud my friend is here. I appreciate your leadership.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you for your advice.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. As far as I'm concerned, I'm very happy to be here, and I'm very happy to have had this discussion with my friend President Bush, discussion on this plan, which is very detailed in terms of the date and is a very convincing plan.

As the President already said, within 2 weeks or even probably before, by the end of this month, the envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations will indicate the names of the members of the interim government.

And something else that President Bush did not mention right now, but we discussed, is the possibility, opportunity of convening a meeting in New York, where your President should be invited and he should meet the members of the Security Council of the United Nations and the top representatives of the countries—members of the coalition. And this in order to provide this government with an international legitimization which is not only useful for the international community but mostly for domestic purposes for this government in Iraq.

And by month—the end of July, there would be the possibility of setting up an electoral commission which will be formed and

made up of—also of celebrities and personalities from United Nations which will help preparing the elections to be held in January.

And we have discussed also other issues, and over dinner we'll have the possibility of discussing additional initiatives which I think should be taken. Since I have the possibility and chance of talking to the President of the Russian Federation, Putin, and to Tony Blair and other leaders, I also submitted to President Bush the possibility of organizing an international conference on Iraq, which could be held before the elections in Iraq in January.

And I can say that we agreed on all of these future possibilities, and we fully share the strategy which needs to be followed. The West must defend itself against international terror. We can think—we are winning this battle if we remain united. Should we leave, abandon Iraq before a democracy takes hold, should we abandon it before this takes place, then we would leave this country to chaos and to a lengthy—to many, many years of civil war, with thousands and thousands of casualties and victims, and this country would probably be a authoritarian country, a fundamentalist country, and certainly an exporter of terror.

I think we've started the work which cannot be left halfway. We have to complete it and until we are sure that we can guarantee the unlucky Iraqi people democracy and freedom, founded in democracy and freedom.

President Bush. Good job. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:18 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General. Prime Minister Berlusconi referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. The Prime Minister spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks at the Sons of Italy Foundation Gala

May 19, 2004

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated.

Audience member. Mr. President!

The President. I promised the Prime Minister you'd behave yourselves. [Laughter] It's great for the son of Barbara to be here with the Sons of Italy. [Laughter] Thank you for having me. I'm honored.

It's a privilege for me to join you all as we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Italian Americans. I'm especially pleased to join you in welcoming our great friend the Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi. At this crucial moment in history, America and Italy are standing together as proud friends and strong allies in the cause of freedom. Our two peoples are bound together by affection and respect, and today, Americans feel respect and gratitude for the leadership of the Prime Minister.

I appreciate Charlie; thank you for being the honorary chairman of this event. I thank Phil as well for being the host. I want to thank Joe Sciamè, who is the chairman of the Sons of Italy Foundation, Paul Polo, who is the president. Our Ambassador to Italy is with us, Mel Sembler. I appreciate the job he is doing on behalf of the American people. Sergio Vento is with us, who is the Italian Ambassador to the United States. And Sergio, I appreciate your leadership.

I know there are some Members of Congress and the Senate here. I see Santorum and Lieberman, and I appreciate you both being here. Thanks for coming. I would recognize the other Members of Congress by name, but you evidently are not here or have lousy seats. [Laughter]

I appreciate the fact that we've got scholarship and award recipients who are with us, and I appreciate the distinguished guests who are here as well.

This annual event is an opportunity to express well justified pride in the Italian ancestry of millions of Americans. The immigrant journey to America could be difficult. Families were often separated, and life in a new country brought its hardships. But this country, the United States, is fortunate that generations of Italian families made the journey. They brought to our country strength of character, a deep faith in God, love of family, and an appreciation of freedom. Without question, America is a better place for the influence of the sons and daughters of Italy.

In so many aspects of American life, it is hard to think of this country without the Italian influence. The life of our country has been richer because of names like DiMaggio and Lombardi, Capra and Sinatra, LaGuardia, Scalia, and Giuliani. Countless of other Italian Americans, less well known, have excelled in every field, from the artisans who carved the figure of Lincoln that overlooks the Mall right here in Washington, to business leaders, to educators, to many good priests and nuns who have kindly looked after Italian parishes here in America. It was an Italian American, Mother Frances Cabrini, whose mission to build hospitals and orphanages for poor immigrants made her America's first saint. Of course, that's the official count—every Italian American man will tell you his mother is the saint. [*Laughter*]

From our Nation's beginnings, the sons and daughters of Italy have been fierce defenders of American liberty. Italians crossed the Atlantic to fight with us in the Revolutionary War. In later struggles, dozens of Italian Americans would receive the Medal of Honor. One of these was Marine Sergeant John Basilone. For 3 days, he battled an entire enemy regiment at Guadalcanal with nothing but his own machine gun, leading General Douglas MacArthur to call him "a one-man army."

Sixty years ago, Allied troops freed Rome, and next month the Prime Minister and I will meet in that city to commemorate its liberation. The sacrifices of that terrible war were shared by both our countries and helped to forge our determination to resist tyranny wherever it exists. For more than five decades, Italy has shown great resolve and courage as a member of NATO. In the past 3 years, America and Italy have been steadfast allies in the war on terror.

The war on terror continues in Iraq. We're standing together in that desperate country as a part of a strong coalition. America appreciates the contributions and sacrifice of nearly 3,000 soldiers that Italy has deployed in that country. We honor the memory of 19 Italians killed by a terrorist's bomb last November and the memory of the Italian soldier killed this week.

And we honor the courage of men like Fabrizio Quattrocchi, a baker who went to

Iraq to work as a security guard. He was kidnaped by terrorists and faced his killers with the bravest defiance. Just before he was murdered, he stood up and shouted, "Now I will show you how an Italian dies!" In that moment, this good man from Genoa showed us that and more: He showed us how a hero lives.

Now all our efforts in Iraq are approaching a crucial moment. The Prime Minister and I had a strategy session on how to help the Iraqis realize their liberty. I appreciate his good, strong advice. On June 30th, our coalition will transfer its authority to a sovereign Iraqi government. With the assistance of the United Nations and our coalition, Iraqi citizens are currently making important decisions about the nature and the scope of that interim government.

In time, Iraq will be a democratic nation at the heart of the Middle East. This will send a powerful message from Damascus to Tehran that democracy and freedom can bring hope to lives in every culture. And this advance of freedom will bring greater security to America, to Italy, and to all who love freedom.

As June 30th approaches, the enemies of freedom grow even more desperate to prevent the rise of democracy in Iraq. That's what you're seeing on your TV screens, the desperate tactics of a hateful few, people who cannot stand the thought of free societies in their midst. They're targeting brave Iraqis who are leading toward democracy, such as Mr. Salim, who was assassinated in Baghdad on Monday. They're murdering Iraqi policemen, who stand as symbols of order. They kill foreign aid workers who are helping to rebuild Iraq. They attack our military. You see, their goal is to undermine the will of our coalition and to drive us out before our mission is complete. They will not succeed. They will not shake the will of America or our coalition.

My resolve is firm. The resolve of the Prime Minister of Italy is firm. The resolve of the American people is firm. Our military is skilled and determined. We all understand the stakes are high for America and the world. We will not be intimidated by thugs and assassins. We will win this essential victory in the war on terror.

These are historic times. This is an historic moment. The world watches for any weakness. They will see no weakness in America. They will see no weakness in Italy. We will answer every challenge. U.S. soldiers and Iraqi security forces are systematically destroying the illegal militia in the south of Iraq. Coalition forces are working with Iraqis in Fallujah to end control by Saddam loyalists and foreign fighters. We're building up Iraqi security forces so at some point, they can safeguard their own security. We're flexible in our methods, but our goal is unchanging. Iraq will be free. Iraq will be a democratic nation.

The sons and daughters of Italy who are serving and sacrificing with us in this cause have earned the gratitude of the American people. We're honored to call the Italian Republic one of our closest friends and strongest allies in the world. We are proud of the great Italian heritage in America. I thank each of you for carrying this heritage forward.

I thank you for your warm welcome tonight. And I ask for God's blessing on the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:50 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Charles Gargano, honorary gala chairman; Philip R. Piccigallo, executive director and chief executive officer, Joseph Sciamè, chairman, and Paul S. Polo, president, Sons of Italy Foundation; Rudolph W. Giuliani, former mayor of New York City; Iraqi Governing Council President Izz al-Din al-Salim, who was killed in a suicide car bomb attack on May 17 in Baghdad; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Interview With Al Zaman

May 18, 2004

Q. Mr. President, I'd like to thank you very much for this opportunity that you provided to Al Zaman newspaper and the Iraqi media. I hope that this meeting and interview with you will be meaningful and will give the Iraqi people the answers they're looking for.

The President. Yes, I look forward to answering your questions. I want to thank you for coming. Welcome to the White House, and welcome to America.

Assassination of Izz al-Din al-Salim/Iraqi Freedom

Q. Mr. President, a few days ago there was an assassination attempt of—an actual assassination of Mr. Izz al-Din al-Salim, and you have described this as a terrorist act. Are there particular groups behind this assassination? And what are they, specifically? Who is behind this assassination attempt?

The President. Well, I don't know. I can't name a person yet. We're looking to find out who did this terrible, terrible deed. The facts will come out. We'll find the truth.

But one of the truths we do know is that there are some people who are trying to stop Iraq from being a free country. They hate the thought of Iraq being free, and so therefore, they're trying to kill people, innocent lives, to shake our will and to frighten Iraqi people. America will not be frightened, and I hope that those who love freedom in Iraq will not be frightened. We must continue to work together to achieve the objective, which is an Iraq which is free, whole, and at peace, so people can realize their potential.

We'll find the truth about who killed this good man, and he will be brought to justice by the Iraqi citizens.

Transition to Iraqi Interim Government

Q. Mr. President, what are your future plans regarding Iraq and the Iraqi people in developing both their political life and their civic life?

The President. Sure. June 30th is an important day in modern Iraqi history, because it's the day that sovereignty will be passed to an interim government. And when America says something, we mean it. So on that day there will be a new government, which will begin—which will replace Mr. Bremer and the Governing Council. At the same time, America will set up an Embassy, headed by a very distinguished diplomat named Ambassador Negroponte. He will have the responsibility for seeing to it that the reconstruction aid approved by the American people through the Congress is spent properly. So in other words, we'll continue with the reconstruction aid.

We will work with the new interim government on security matters. It's going to be

very important for the people of Iraq to realize that sovereignty has been passed and that America wants to help the new government prepare the way for elections, help the new government prepare the way for peace, to help the new government on security matters by doing two things: one, training Iraq, continuing to train policemen and Iraqi forces so the Iraqi people take care of their own security needs against the few who want to stop the hopes of many; as well as help the Iraqi forces deal with foreign fighters, for example, who are still in the country and trying to kill people and intimidate and to create fear.

So we'll have an active role. But the truth of the matter is, Iraq will be run by Iraqi citizens. The future of Iraq is in your hands. We're there to help. We're there to help the people realize dreams. The people of this country are very generous and compassionate people, and we want you to succeed.

Transfer of Sovereignty

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned now about the transfer of sovereignty through a political process. But there are those who are saying that the transfer of sovereignty on June 30th will be an incomplete sovereignty and not a complete sovereignty. So, Mr. President, do you have different issues of this—

The President. I do have a different view. It will be a complete passage of sovereignty. And then we'll work with the government to help the government achieve objectives. And we'll work with the United Nations. But what happens on June 30th is that the ministries will be run by Iraqis. Some ministries, as you know, aren't. I mean, the coalition—the CPA is making many decisions for the Iraqi people. Now it's time for the Iraqi people.

Now, people will say, "Well, can you give us help? We need help in certain areas." And of course the coalition and America will want to help, but the decisionmaking process will be Iraqi leadership. This will be a big day. It's an important day. And then, of course, there will elections to a general assembly that will then write a new constitution. And there will be another election. And America wants to help. And I think the interim government is going to realize it's important for our

troops to stay there to make sure that there is security, and we will do so. We will help. But this is an important day. It's a transfer of sovereignty, and people will see that it's a transfer of sovereignty.

Prisoner Abuse in Abu Ghraib Prison

Q. Mr. President, I thank you for this explanation and your insistence on transferring sovereignty on the 30th of June. I would like to move into another issue, which is much more sensitive in Iraq. There is the scandal of the behavior of American soldiers in abusing prisoners in Abu Ghraib Prison. Some of those prison guards said that they carried out these acts as instructions coming from higher up. Do you believe, Mr. President, that there are much more senior people in the administration who could be behind this?

The President. Let me first speak directly to the Iraqi people through you on this matter. The actions in that prison did not reflect the attitude of America and the American people. These humiliating acts do not reflect our character.

Secondly, the Iraqi people and the world will see that we will conduct a thorough investigation for the whole world to see so that the truth will be known as to how these actions might have taken place. In other words, were there orders; who gave the orders? And the world will see that—which is very different, by the way, from a process that would have been under Saddam Hussein. In other words, you would never know these abuses took place, much less being able to ask the leader questions as a member of the free press or the ability for the world to see a very transparent process.

I want to know the truth too, and I look forward to a thorough investigation. And there will be a thorough investigation. As a matter of fact, part of the investigation process is to bring people to justice. And there will be a trial shortly in Iraq, and we will find out the—in other words, this will be the beginnings of the process where people will see justice will be meted out for the action of those guards. But you've just got to know that I'm interested in the truth as well, just like you're interested in the truth.

And one of the things in our country is people are innocent until proven guilty. And

therefore, with that presumption of innocence, therefore, the process must be very thorough before you start accusing people. And that's what you'll see. You'll see this unfold in a series of hearings and investigations and, in some cases, military trials.

Muqtada Al Sadr

Q. Mr. President, now there are very sad events in the city of Najaf. There is fighting between the Al Sadr's militia and the coalition forces. How do you look and see Mr. Al Sadr, and why do you think that the CPA refused an agreement with Muqtada Al Sadr as some reports mentioned that the Shi'a religious leaders, such as Sistani, embraced such an agreement, but it was rejected by the CPA? Don't you think this is an escalation? And who would be benefited from that escalation?

The President. I've got to tell you—I must tell you, I am not exactly sure of the agreement to which you refer. I do know a couple of things: One, that Shi'a leaders are getting very impatient with Al Sadr and that it's best that the Iraqi leadership take care of him. One of the things we've insisted—or I've said publicly is that he's been accused of a crime, and he ought to be tried by Iraqis. And they ought to settle this issue in a court in Iraq.

Secondly, I've made it very clear that our troops will honor the great religious shrines in the holy sites and that we'll protect the holy sites. Now, on the other hand, he's made the decision to occupy the holy sites, and that's unfortunate.

Thirdly, I will tell you that when militia threaten our troops or threaten innocent Iraqis, we will protect ourselves and protect them, because a peaceful Iraq must not have militias running—you know, making decisions. There needs to order, and there needs to be calm.

But Mr. Sadr, who has made some pretty outlandish statements in the past, can best be dealt with by Shi'a leadership. And obviously, would hope this will end his occupation, will end soon.

Now, as to negotiations, I'm not at liberty to comment on it because I'm not exactly sure about what you're referring to.

Q. There were some negotiations, and there was an agreement between Muqtada Al Sadr, according to what the press reports said—

The President. Why don't you check on that. Thank you.

Iraqi Reconstruction

Q. Mr. President, I believe that you might agree with me that there is a slowdown in the reconstruction process of Iraq, and some of the donors country are not fulfilling their financial obligations. What is the U.S. intention in motivating those countries to fulfill their obligations?

The President. Well, that's a very good question. I think, first of all, the first question is, if I were you I'd ask, "Will America fulfill its obligation?" And the answer is, yes, we will, which is a lot of reconstruction money.

Now, the expenditure of that money has slowed down from our perspective because of the security situation. And that's why it's essential that Iraqis, themselves, stand up and join those who are anxious for life to improve, to reject the violence of the few people. It's essential that we be successful at transforming the police force into—and the forces that are there to protect infrastructure into a viable force which works, with a good command structure, an Iraqi command structure, so that projects can forward.

Secondly, I have a chance to speak to leaders of the world in person here in the next couple weeks, and we'll continue to remind them of the joint obligation the free world has to see to it that we're successful in Iraq. And the definition of success is a society which is peaceful and free, that governs itself, a society in which children can go to school and which the health care is good and which the infrastructure is strong, and in which the businesses flourish—all of which I think is going to happen, by the way—that we all have an obligation to work toward that day, because a free and peaceful Iraq is in the world's interest.

And so I'll continue to remind people of their obligations. I will tell you, though, part of the reluctance for people to come forward is because of the security situation. People see on their TV screens the fact that aid workers or reconstruction workers get killed,

and it creates a sense of fear—precisely what the enemy wants. That’s why it’s important for the Iraq populace and the leadership here in America to stand firm in the face of these terrorist attacks and not be intimidated^{*} and to move forward with a positive program that is going to make—it’s going to change the country in such a positive way.

Syria/Iran/Iraqi Freedom

Q. Mr. President, last question, and it’s a two-part question. How do you view the countries neighboring Iraq? And Syria was punished. Is it because their position regarding the American presence in Iraq? And what is the situation regarding Iran? And do you—afraid of Shiite state and government in Iraq? And what is the message you’d like to convey to the Iraqi people? Thank you.

The President. That is an excellent question. First, no, my decision towards Syria was really based upon a series of requests we had of the Government to reject terrorist organizations, to help fight off cross-border infiltration into your country, to join us to make the area peaceful. And our requests were rejected, and therefore, I started a process as a result of a law passed by the United States Congress.

Secondly, in terms of Iran, my concern with Iran is that they would—that they believe they can develop a nuclear weapon. I think that would be a big mistake, and I think it’s very important for the world to work with the Iranians and insist they not develop a weapon.

No, I do not believe that there’s going to be a Shi’a theocracy in Iraq dominated by Iran. I believe the Iraqi people are—want to have their own country, their own identity, that understand the Shi’a, Sunni, and Kurd can and must work together for the good of the whole. And I believe the Iraqi people don’t want to be dominated by anybody. They want the United States to be a friend, but the United States to not dominate. They certainly don’t want the Iranians to dominate. Iraq is plenty capable of being a strong, independent nation, and our objective is to help them become that nation.

^{*} White House correction.

I want the Iraqi people to hear me on this. I’m told that some in Iraq are very worried that America will lose its will and not help this important country full of good people become a free country. The Iraqi people must understand that I will not lose my will, that we will help Iraq become free and peaceful, that we will stand with those who want a new Iraq after Saddam Hussein to develop, where mothers and dads can raise their children in a peaceful world, where business and shopkeepers can grow their businesses, where the education system works well, where people can get good health. And I believe it’s possible.

And I call upon the Iraqi people to reject violence, band together to insist that the country move toward a peaceful tomorrow. Iraq is changing for the better. I mean, look at the soccer team. The Iraq soccer team is going to the Olympics as a proud—to represent a proud new country. And I’m excited. I’m excited for the Olympic team. I’m excited for the Iraqi people, and I look forward someday to greeting an Iraqi leader dedicated to peace and freedom, just like I’ve had the opportunity to greet you, as a fellow human being, as a person who—I respect people. I respect their religion. I respect human rights. I respect human dignity. And that’s the kind of society I know will grow up in Iraq.

This is historic times. They’re hard times. But there are better times ahead, but it requires courage and strength and will. And I want to thank you for coming to the White House. It’s been my pleasure to be with you, sir.

Q. I thank you very much, Mr. President, for this opportunity once again. And I hope that you will have many opportunities with the Iraqi press in the future.

The President. Yes, sir. Thank you. Very good.

NOTE: The interview began at 4:45 p.m. in the Library at the White House, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 20. In his remarks, the President referred to Iraqi Governing Council President Izz al-Din al-Salim, who was killed in a suicide car bomb attack on May 17 in Baghdad; L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Muqtada Al Sadr,

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.

Executive Order 13341—Further Amendment to Executive Order 11023, Providing for the Performance by the Secretary of Commerce of Certain Functions Relating to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

May 20, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. As a result of the enactment of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372), the following conforming amendments are made to Executive Order 11023 of May 28, 1962, as amended:

(a) In section 1(a), delete “section 6(b) of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commissioned Officers Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 298; 33 U.S.C. 853e(b))” and insert in lieu thereof: “section 223(b) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3023(b))”.

(b) In section 1(b), delete “section 12(a) of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commissioned Officers Act of 1948, as amended (75 Stat. 506; 33 U.S.C. 853j-1(a))” and insert in lieu thereof: “section 229(a) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3029(a))”.

(c) In section 1(c), delete “section 12(b) of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commissioned Officers Act of 1948, as amended (75 Stat. 506; 33 U.S.C. 853j-1(b))” and insert in lieu thereof: “section 229(b) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3029(b))”.

(d) In section 1(d), delete “section 12(c) of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commissioned Officers Act of 1948, as amended (75 Stat. 506; 33 U.S.C. 853j-1(c))” and insert in lieu thereof: “section 229(c) of the Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3029(c))”.

(e) Section 1(e) shall be revised to read as follows: “The authority vested in the President by section 243(b) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3043(b)), to defer the retirement of an officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration serving in a rank above that of captain who has attained 62 years of age, but such a deferment may not extend beyond the first day of the month in which the officer becomes 64 years of age.”

(f) Section 1(f) shall be revised to read as follows: “The authority vested in the President by section 244 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3044), to retire from the active service any commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, upon his own application, who has completed 20 years of active service, of which at least 10 years was service as a commissioned officer.”

(g) In section 1(g), delete “section 23(a) of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commissioned Officers Act of 1948, as amended (75 Stat. 506; 33 U.S.C. 853t(a))” and insert in lieu thereof: “section 221(a)(4) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3021(a)(4))”.

(h) In section 1(h), delete “section 1(1) of the Act of December 3, 1942 (56 Stat. 1038; 33 U.S.C. 854a-1(1))” and insert in lieu thereof: “section 230(b)(1) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3030(b)(1))”.

(i) In section 1(i), delete “section 1(2) of the Act of December 3, 1942 (56 Stat. 1038; 33 U.S.C. 854a-1(2))” and insert in lieu thereof: “section 230(b)(2) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002

(Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3030(b)(2))”.

(j) Section 1(j) shall be revised to read as follows: “The authority contained in section 230(b)(3) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3030(b)(3)), to appoint temporarily in all grades to which original appointments in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are authorized to fill vacancies caused by transfer of officers to the military departments.”

(k) In section 1(k), delete “section 16 of the Act of May 22, 1917 (40 Stat. 87; 33 U.S.C. 855)” and insert in lieu thereof: “section 251 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-372; 33 U.S.C. 3061)”, and delete the word “personnel” in the two places in which it appears and insert in lieu thereof: “officers”.

Sec. 2. Section 1(m) is added to Executive Order 11023 to read as follows: “(m) The authority vested in the President by Public Law 96-215, as amended (10 U.S.C. 716(a)), to transfer any commissioned officer with his consent from his uniformed service to, and appoint him in, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, provided consent for the transfer is given by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, in accordance with joint regulations issued under that statute establishing the policies and procedures for such transfers and appointments.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 20, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:09 a.m., May 24, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 25.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and Certain Other Property in Which Iraq Has an Interest

May 20, 2004

On May 22, 2003, by Executive Order 13303, I declared a national emergency protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and certain other property in which Iraq has an interest, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq constituted by the threat of attachment or other judicial process against the Development Fund for Iraq, Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof.

On August 28, 2003, in Executive Order 13315, I expanded the scope of this national emergency to block the property of the former Iraqi regime, its senior officials and their family members as the removal of Iraqi property from that country by certain senior officials of the former Iraqi regime and their immediate family members constitutes an obstacle to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq.

Because these obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq 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 22, 2003, and the measures adopted on that date and on August 28, 2003, to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond May 22, 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 protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and certain other property in which Iraq has an interest.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 20, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
2:48 p.m., May 20, 2004]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 21.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency Protecting the
Development Fund for Iraq and
Certain Other Property**

May 20, 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. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as expanded in scope by Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and certain other property in which Iraq has an interest, is to con-

tinue in effect beyond May 22, 2004, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq constituted by the threat of attachment or other judicial process against the Development Fund for Iraq, Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof, pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency protecting the Development Fund for Iraq, and certain other property in which Iraq has an interest, and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 20, 2004.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Revision of the
United States Arctic Research Plan**

May 20, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the provisions of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, as amended (15 U.S.C. 4108(a)), I transmit herewith the eighth biennial revision (2004–2008) to the United States Arctic Research Plan, as prepared for the Congress and the Administration by the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 20, 2004.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on United
States Trade and Investment Policy
for Sub-Saharan Africa and
Implementation of the African
Growth and Opportunity Act**

May 20, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration entitled “2004 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 20, 2004.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 21.

**Commencement Address at
Louisiana State University in
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

May 21, 2004

Thank you all very much. Chancellor Emmert and President Jenkins and Chairman Ogden, Members of the Congress, members of the faculty, trustees, families, distinguished guests, and members of the Class of 2004. I want to thank you for the warm welcome. It’s great to be in the—on this wonderful campus. I’m honored to be with you on graduation day as all of you become proud alumni of Louisiana State University.

As you graduate from LSU, your Chancellor is graduating to new challenges as well. We appreciate Chancellor Emmert for his fine, steadfast leadership in making LSU one of America’s flagship universities. This day is a tribute as well to the faculty of LSU, and we thank them for your skill and your dedication.

Some in this class are graduating with honors, and I congratulate all of you on an achievement that took a lot of discipline. Others may have spent a little less time in

the library—[*laughter*]—a little more time keeping the stools warm down at The Chimes. [*Laughter*] But you earned your degree, and you too can leave today with high hopes. I speak with some authority here—[*laughter*]—I’ve seen how things can work out pretty well for a C student. [*Laughter*]

All of you have learned a lot here at LSU, and you learned to take your sports seriously. I know you’re especially proud of your mighty national champs, the finest athletes to wear the LSU jersey, the Lady Tigers of the women’s track team. Plus you’ve got a pretty good football team too. I know firsthand, when Coach Saban told me right there at the White House how good this team was. And I want to congratulate all the athletes here at LSU.

After 4 years of sitting through lectures, I have a feeling you’re not in the mood for another one. You’ve probably had your fill of political speeches from Free Speech Alley. [*Laughter*] So today, on your last day at LSU, I thought I would share a few important lessons that I’ve picked up along the way.

Let me begin with a very valuable lesson I’ve learned, a lesson that has influenced my well-being, and here it is: Listen to your mother. [*Laughter*] I had little choice. My mom has a way of speaking her mind. When I paid attention, I benefited. When I didn’t, I paid the price. That’s how it still works. [*Laughter*]

In the world’s eyes, you are now an independent adult. In your mother’s eyes, you probably still have some growing up to do. You may not always agree with her advice, but I think of it this way: The first voice you heard is always worth listening to.

There are many moms and dads here today, and I know how some of you are feeling. It feels really good to write the last tuition check. [*Laughter*] It also feels like the last 20 years or so went by awfully fast. I know you’re proud of your sons and daughters, and I know they are grateful. Today we honor the parents of the Class of 2004.

Here is another bit of advice I hope you graduates will consider as you weigh the values and priorities of your life. Sometimes you’ll hear people say that moral truth is relative or call religious faith a comforting illusion. And when you hear talk like that, take

it seriously enough to be skeptical. It may seem generous and openminded to say that everybody, on every moral issue, is equally right. But that attitude can also be an excuse for sidestepping life's most important questions. Most people over the ages have viewed the search for moral truth as one of the main purposes of life. And they were correct. Good societies are constructed on the conviction that there is right, and there is wrong, and we can know the difference.

Our country depends on businesspeople who are honest in keeping the books and public officials who stay true to their oath and soldiers who put their duty above comfort and men and women in every walk of life who conduct themselves with integrity, even when no one is watching.

Good lives are also constructed on moral conviction. You will find that indifferent and cynical men and women accomplish little that makes them proud. You will find that fighting injustice and evil requires a vision of goodness and truth. You will find the only way to live an honorable life is to believe in honor. For your sake and for the sake of our country, I hope you will always strive to be men and women of conviction and character.

As you enter professional life, I have a few other suggestions about how to succeed on the job. For starters, be on time. It's polite, and it shows your respect for others. Of course, it's easy for me to say. It's easy for me to be punctual when armed men stop all the traffic in town for you. [*Laughter*]

On the job and elsewhere in life, choose your friends carefully. The company you keep has a way of rubbing off on you, and that can be a good thing or a bad thing. In my job, I got to pick just about everybody I work with. [*Laughter*] I've been happy with my choices, although I wish someone had warned me about all of Dick Cheney's wild partying. [*Laughter*]

Let me leave you with one more lesson. Wherever life takes us and whatever challenges we meet, each one of us has much to be grateful for. And the proper measure of response of a grateful heart is service. There's no such thing as a self-made man or woman. Everyone has had a little help along the way. It is a sign of maturity to re-

member our debts and a sign of grace to pass the favor along in generosity to others. There's a wise saying: We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

Louisiana State University has a tradition of gratitude expressed in service to community and country. Four monuments on your campus honor those from LSU who served and died in the Armed Forces. Recently, a new name was added to the War Memorial: Navy Lieutenant Scott Lamana was killed in the attack on the Pentagon on September the 11th, 2001. He died at his post. His Nation honors his memory.

In the war on terror we have counted on others from LSU. With us today to receive their degrees are three young men who saw active duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We thank Sergeant Cavalier, Corporal Esposito, Sergeant Jarreau for their service in the United States Marine Corps.

One of the finest ways to show gratitude for freedom is to defend freedom. And those who wear the uniform of our country have repaid America many times over with their selflessness and courage. That courage is needed. We live in historic times, when the will and character of America are being tested. We're at war with enemies that have many destructive ambitions and one overriding goal: They want to spread their ideology of hatred by forcing America to retreat from the world in weakness and fear. Yet, they're finding that Americans are not the running kind. When this country makes a commitment, we see it through.

We have an historic opportunity, the establishment of a peaceful and democratic Iraq at the heart of the Middle East, which will remove a danger, strike a blow against terrorism, and make America and the world more secure. We will complete the mission for which so many have served and sacrificed. And the world can be certain we will defend the freedom and security of this Nation, whatever it takes. And the world can be certain we will never abandon our belief that freedom is the gift from the Almighty to every man and woman in this world.

More than 60 years ago, when America was attacked at Pearl Harbor, a senior at this university joined the Marine Corps. He was three credits short, so he didn't graduate in

1942. Instead, he found himself taking part in fierce battles at Iwo Jima and Guam and elsewhere in the Pacific theater. Corporal Lamar Simmons returned home to Louisiana and built a successful career running radio stations. Not so long ago, his stepson learned that LSU gives academic credit for military service and applied for those credits on behalf of Mr. Simmons. And so a man who began his studies here in 1938 graduates with you today: Lamar Simmons, Class of 2004.

Mr. Simmons, with my honorary degree, I guess that makes me the second-oldest member of your graduating class. [Laughter] I speak for all of my classmates in paying tribute to this one man and to the great generation of Americans to which he belongs. These Americans saw faraway conflict change their lives and took on duties they had not asked for and did what had to be done. They kept this country free. We are still in their debt.

As President, I've had the privilege of seeing another generation rise to its responsibilities and show its character. I've seen the goodness and idealism of young Americans. I've seen confidence—I've seen your confidence in yourselves, and I have confidence in you, in your generation, and in the great contributions you will make to our country.

I wish you all the best. I thank you for letting me share this day. I'm proud to be a member of your class. Congratulations, and may God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:21 a.m. at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mark A. Emmert, chancellor, and Nick L. Saban, head football coach, Louisiana State University; and William L. Jenkins, president, and Roger H. Ogden, chairman, board of supervisors, Louisiana State University System.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

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.

May 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea to discuss the possibility of redeploying a U.S. military brigade from South Korea to Iraq, the situation in North Korea, and other issues. He then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to discuss the possibility of redeploying a U.S. military brigade to Iraq, Prime Minister Junichiro's upcoming visit to Pyongyang, North Korea, and the situation in North Korea.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Topeka, KS, arriving in the afternoon. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Leo Barbee, Jr.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Brandon Gray.

In the evening, the President made remarks at a Victory 2004 reception and then attended a Victory 2004 dinner at a private residence. He then returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher William Dell to be Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jack Rosen as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles C. Nguyen and Van Toi Vo as members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Nicole Stelle Garnett, John A. Kaneb, and Reggie B. Walton as members of the National Prison Rape Reduction Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate Roger W. Wallace as Chairman and to nominate Nadine Hogan and Jack Vaughn as members of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The President announced his intention to designate F. Duane Ackerman as Chairman

and Patricia F. Russo as Vice Chairman of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

May 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with former President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan. He then met with members of the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Anti-Semitism Conference.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with 2004 MATHCOUNTS National Competition award recipients. Later, in the Residence, he met with Republican Members of the House of Representatives to discuss legislative priorities.

The White House announced that the President has invited the leaders of Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda to meet with G-8 leaders on June 10 on Sea Island, GA.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alan Greenspan to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

May 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with new Iraqi Governing Council President Ghazi Ujayl al-Yawr to express his condolences concerning the death of former Council President Izz al-Din al-Salim and to discuss reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

May 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the U.S. Capitol, he made remarks to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Republican Conferences.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a roundtable with broadcast economic reporters. Later, in the Oval Office,

he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, and Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command. He then met separately with Secretary Rumsfeld.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador at the White House on May 27.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark for a meeting and lunch at the White House on May 28.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on Disability: Milton Aponte, Robert Davila, Young Woo Kang, Kathleen Martinez, and Linda Wetters.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark D. Gearan and Leona White Hat to be members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President announced his intention to appoint Witold Rybczynski as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission: James T. Scott (Chairman), Jennifer Sandra Carroll, John H. Grady, Thomas E. Harvey, and James E. Livingston.

May 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Baton Rouge, LA.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA, and then to Metairie, LA, where he attended a Victory 2004 reception at a private residence. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon at the White House on May 26.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 17

Christopher William Dell,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Nadine Hogan,
of Florida, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2008, vice Frank D. Yturria, term expired.

Michael H. Schneider, Sr.,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, vice John H. Hannah, Jr., deceased.

Jack Vaughn,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2006, vice Patricia Hill Williams, term expired.

Submitted May 18

Alan Greenspan,
of New York, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 4 years (reappointment).

Submitted May 20

Milton Aponte,
of Florida, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2006 (reappointment).

Robert Davila,
of New York, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2006 (reappointment).

Mark D. Gearan,
of New York, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term of one year (new position).

Leona White Hat,
of South Dakota, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2008, vice Amy C. Achor, term expired.

Young Woo Kang,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2006 (reappointment).

Kathleen Martinez,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2006 (reappointment).

Linda Wetters,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2006 (reappointment).

Edwin D. Williamson,
of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of 5 years, vice Amy L. Comstock, resigned.

Robert Clark Corrente,
of Rhode Island, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island for the term of 4 years, vice Margaret Ellen Curran.

Laura A. Cordero,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Shellie Fountain Bowers, retiring.

Juliet JoAnn McKenna,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Nan R. Shuker, retiring.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at Vanderbilt University Senior Class Day, Nashville, TN

Released May 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush Invites Leaders of Six African Countries To Meet With G-8 Leaders in Sea Island

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2315

Released May 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the loss of life of innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza

Released May 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Francisco Flores of El Salvador

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen

Statement by the Press Secretary: Chen Shui-bian's Inaugural Address

Released May 21

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Meeting With President Omar Bongo Ondimba

Statement by the Press Secretary: Burma: National Reconciliation and Democracy

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved May 18

S. 2315 / Public Law 108-228

To amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to extend the deadline for the INTELSAT initial public offering