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The President's Radio Address

June 5, 2004

Good morning. This has been an important week for the future of Iraq, for the Middle East, and for America's security. On Tuesday in Baghdad, Iraq's new Prime Minister, Ayad al-Alawi, and United Nations Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi announced the members of Iraq's new interim government. Iraq's President is Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawr, an engineer from northern Iraq. There will also be two Deputy Presidents and a 33-member Cabinet.

This interim government reflects new leadership drawn from a broad cross-section of Iraqis. The new government brings together men and women of varied backgrounds who represent Iraq's ethnic and religious diversity. Five were regional officials; six are women; and all are Iraqi patriots dedicated to building a brighter future for their country.

Naming this new government advances our five-step plan to help Iraq achieve democracy and freedom as a united and Federal nation. It brings us closer to realizing the hope of millions of Iraqis, a fully sovereign nation with a representative government to protect their rights and serve their interests. It brings us closer to seeing a Middle East that knows the blessings of liberty, and it brings us closer to defeating a ruthless enemy that has killed thousands of innocents and still threatens the peace of the world.

This new government will follow the political process outlined in the transitional administrative law and prepare Iraq for a national election no later than January of next year. And while the enemy will continue to spread violence and fear, our coalition will work in full partnership with the new Iraqi government to provide the security that will make that election possible. In that election, the people of Iraq will choose a transitional national assembly, the first freely elected, truly representative national governing body in Iraq's history.

Iraq is on the path to democracy and freedom, and the international community is helping Iraq complete the journey. We're working with allied Governments and with Iraq's new leaders on a new United Nations Security Council resolution that will express international support for Iraq's interim government, reaffirm the world's security commitment to the Iraqi people, and encourage other U.N. members to join in the effort of building a free Iraq.

And this month, I am traveling to foreign capitals and international summits to discuss with world leaders our common responsibility to help a free Iraq succeed. Yesterday I was in Italy, where I met with the Holy Father. I also met with Prime Minister Berlusconi and joined in marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Rome. Today in France, I will meet with President Chirac, and on the 6th of June, I will join him in commemorating the D-day landings at Normandy. From France, I will go directly to this year's G–8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia. This month, I will also attend the U.S.-EU Summit in Ireland and the NATO Summit in Turkey. These meetings provide an opportunity for world leaders to show our solidarity with the Iraqi people as they build a free and democratic government.

The challenges of our time extend beyond Iraq. The war on terror is being fought on many fronts, and since September the 11th, we have seen terrorist violence from Morocco to Indonesia. Yet the center of this conflict remains the Middle East. If that region is abandoned to dictators and terrorists, it will be a constant source of violence and alarm, exporting killers of increasing sophistication and destructive power. If that region grows in democracy, prosperity, and hope, the terrorist movement will lose its sponsors,

lose its recruits, and lose the festering grievances that keep terrorists in business. It is our work to win this struggle.

We're now about 3 years into the war against terrorism. We've met great challenges, and there are more ahead. This is no time for impatience or self-defeating pessimism. We have work to do in the defense of our country and for the good of humanity, and by doing our duty and holding firm to our values, this generation will give the world a lesson in the power of liberty.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:40 p.m. on June 4 at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Rome, Italy, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 4 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General; Deputy Presidents Ibrahim al-Jafari and Rowsch Shaways of the Iraqi interim government; Pope John Paul II; Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy; and President Jacques Chirac of France. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy in Rome, Italy

June 5, 2004

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Villa Madama today, which has been around for more than 500 years. I'd like to very cordially and warmly welcome the President of the United States. I welcome him on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government and on behalf of the Italian people that have really welcomed the U.S. President very warmly because we remember what the people of the U.S. have done for us and for our freedom.

Later on during this press conference, I'm certain that I'll have the time to go into these issues that link us and connect us to the United States because of our past. But I would like also to mention to you why we feel very close to the United States today, and we will so in the future.

And I'd like for the President to now take the floor.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much. Laura and I are so pleased to be in Rome to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Allied liberation of the Eternal City. I'm proud to stand with you, Mr. Prime Minister, my friend. I always look forward to our conversations. I listen to your advice. I trust your judgment. I take you for your word.

We are bound together by ties of family history and shared values. The friendship between our two nations has withstood many trials, including those perilous times in 1944 that we recall and we honor today. Over two centuries, our Governments have been allies and adversaries. And today, the affection between our peoples have never been stronger.

For the last 60 years, our Alliance has helped secure the peace of the world. Italy stood on the frontlines of freedom throughout the cold war. Italy's membership in NATO has given strength and purpose to that vital Alliance. And today in the Balkans and in Afghanistan and in Iraq, Americans and Italians are once again defending freedom against the forces of oppression and terror.

All Americans join me in honoring the more than 20 Italians who have fallen in the cause of liberty in Iraq. Their sacrifice was worthy of the ideals of this great nation. Their service will help make Italy, America, and the world more secure, as a free and democratic Iraq arises in the heart of the Middle East.

Our coalition is moving forward with a plan to help Iraq achieve democracy and freedom. Later this month, we'll hand over authority to a sovereign Iraqi government. The members of that government were announced earlier this week in Baghdad, and they are a team of Iraqi patriots that reflect the religious, ethnic, and religious diversity of the Iraqi nation.

Italian and American military forces will remain in Iraq to help Iraqis establish the security so that the Iraqi people can live their lives free of fear and so that democracy can take root. Our countries will continue to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure and help Iraq's economy grow and prosper, and we will help Iraq move toward a national election that will bring forward new leaders empowered by the Iraqi people.