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is about a quality change of the impact the United Nations have over the situation in Iraq. Naturally, it will take quite a long time before this adoption of the document will have any impact on the real change on the ground in Iraq.

But we can convincingly and comfortably state that the situation is ripe for adopting such a serious and such a concrete document concerning this country. If prior to this document it was primarily the burden and the responsibility which was upheld by the United States with regard to this country, it seems now it will be the Iraqi government themselves who will have the whole spectrum of the sovereignty rights which will be enjoyed by them, with a major influence now to be exercised by the entire world community with regards to the situation in that country.

Therefore on this occasion, I would like to congratulate the U.S. President with this achievement and to express our wish that the situation is going to be changing in a better way there.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:41 p.m. at Dunbar House. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Congress on the Death of President Ronald Reagan

June 8, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

By this Message, I officially inform you of the death of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States.

Ronald Reagan was a great leader and a good man. He had the confidence that comes with conviction, the strength that comes with character, the grace that comes with humility, and the humor that comes with wisdom.

Through his leadership, spirit, and abiding faith in the American people, President Reagan gave our Nation a renewed optimism. With his courage and moral clarity, he enhanced America's security and advanced the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy to millions of people who had lived in darkness and oppression. As America's President, he helped change the world.

The sun has now set on Ronald Reagan's extraordinary American life. Just as he told us that our Nation's best days are yet to come, we know that the same is true for him.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 8, 2004.

Remarks at the Multi-Agency Command Center at Saint Simon's Island, Georgia

June 8, 2004

Thank you all very much for working at what you're doing. It's a great example of Federal, State, and local cooperation. I appreciate so many of you taking time away from your families to make sure this event goes the way we want it to go, secure and peaceful.

I know that you're working long hours, and I've come to thank you very much for what you're doing. It means a lot to me, and it means a lot to the people whose lives you're protecting.

So I want to thank you very much, and I ask for God's blessings on you all and the country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:32 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters at Sea Island, Georgia

June 9, 2004

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for your steadfast leadership, your clear vision, and your friendship.

Yesterday was an important day for the Iraqi people. The United Nations Security Council unanimously expressed the desire for Iraq to be free and peaceful, and I want to thank you for your leadership on that issue. It's really important for leaders to have allies

that they can count on and rely on and who's got good judgment, and you do. Welcome to America.

Prime Minister Blair. Thanks. Well, thanks very much, Mr. President, and thank you for your help and support in getting the resolution through. It's been a really important time.

The crucial thing now is the people of Iraq know they've got the whole of the international community on side, for Iraq is a stable and democratic country. And the terrorists and the fanatics and the extremists who are trying to stop this democracy happening know they've got the whole of the world against them, and that's the key thing.

President Bush. A couple of questions. Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

NATO Involvement in Iraq/Iraqi Security Forces

Q. Mr. President and Mr. Prime Minister, do you think you can translate this momentum from yesterday's vote into getting more debt relief for Iraq? And also, what are you looking for now as a next step in terms of NATO involvement in the process?

President Bush. We discussed NATO—the NATO involvement over breakfast, and we believe NATO ought to be involved. We will work with our NATO friends to at least continue the role that now exists and hopefully expand it somewhat. There is going to be some constraints, obviously. A lot of NATO countries are not in a position to commit any more troops. We fully understand that. But I do think NATO ought to stay involved, and I think we have a good chance of getting that done.

Prime Minister Blair. I think that's right. And I think also the key next step in this is going to be for the new Iraqi government to sit down with a multinational force and work out how, over time, the Iraqi capability for security can be established and built up. I mean, there is a capability that it is there at the moment, but we know that there are gaps in that capability. And we're there to help them and make sure that the Iraqis ultimately can take care of their own security, because that's, as the Iraqi Prime Minister has been saying, that's the key issue, and that's the one they want to deal with.

Iraqi Democracy

Q. I mean, given what's wrong in Iraq as well as what's gone right—do you see what I mean—is there any way you think that what's happening in Iraq can be a model for the rest of the Middle East, particularly given the fact that countries like Saudi Arabia have declined to come here?

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I think that—the one thing that's interesting, when you talk to the Iraqi Prime Minister and the new Iraqi government, is that they do see the possibility of a democratic Iraq being a force for good in their region as well as obviously being good for the people of Iraq.

I mean, I think this is a process of change, and we've got to help people manage it. And really what we're doing today is to say, "Look, sensible people sitting down and looking at the situation in the Middle East know that there needs to be a process of reform and change." Now, that's not for us to dictate to people, but it is for us to help them get there. And that's what this is about. And I think it's all part of the same picture, which is to say to people, the security challenge we face obviously has to be dealt with by security measures, but it's not just about security measures. It's not just about force. It's also about political and democratic reform, and it's about helping people to get to where they know, I think, really, that they need to be, that they need some help to get there.

President Bush. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

President's Upcoming Meeting With President al-Yawr of Iraq

Q. Mr. President, you're seeing the new President of Iraq today. What are you going to tell him? What do you want to hear from him? And how can he and the other leaders function properly in the atmosphere of violence there?

President Bush. I'm going to tell him we're pulling for him and pulling for the people of Iraq, particularly those who have a deep desire to live in a free society. I'm going to thank him for having the courage to stand up and lead and tell him that America will help him. I'm also going to tell him that when we say transfer full sovereignty, we mean transfer full sovereignty. He is the President

of a sovereign nation, and therefore, he and the Prime Minister and the rest of the ministers must make decisions on—wise decisions on behalf of the Iraqi people.

I'm looking forward to the meeting with the man, and in one of my conversations with him, he thanked me for the sacrifices of coalition troops, for which I was most grateful. The American people need to know that there are people in Iraq who are deeply grateful for the fact that our sons and daughters have died for their freedom. And I'm sure the people of Great Britain want to hear that same message. I look forward to reminding him of what he told me in that phone call.

Final question—we've got to get ready. I've got to go over—I'm the host, so I've got to greet people. [*Laughter*]

Iraqi Opposition Forces

Q. What do you both say to the men of violence in Iraq, who will probably want to take no notice of this resolution?

President Bush. I will tell them that freedom will eventually prevail and that they are not going to drive us out of Iraq because of their random killing, that we will not be intimidated by their murderous ways.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 a.m. at Dunbar House. In his remarks, he referred to President Ghazi Ujayl al-Yawr and Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi interim government. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Ghazi Ujayl al-Yawr of Iraq at Sea Island

June 9, 2004

President Bush. Mr. President, thanks for being here. This has been a special day for me and those of us in my administration who are here, because I really never thought I'd be sitting next to an Iraqi President of a free country a year and a half ago, and here you are. Not only are you here to visit with me—and we've had a wonderful talk—but you're here to talk to the leadership of the G–8, leaders of the free world. And I am so grateful you are here. Please convey my best wishes to your Prime Minister as well.

Yesterday the United Nations sent a clear message that the world supports a free Iraq. And the United States supports a transfer of full sovereignty to you, Mr. President, and your government. And having visited with you, having talked to you, and having listened to you, I have got great faith in the future of your country, because you believe in the hopes and aspirations of the Iraqi people.

It's been a proud day for me. I'm glad you're here.

President al-Yawr. Thank you. First of all, I'd like to, on behalf of the Iraqi people, to thank you for giving us this chance to attend the G–8 Summit, where, again, thanks to the American people, for the leadership of President George Bush, without which we couldn't have been here into the G–8. Mr. President, I'd like to express to you the commitment of the Iraqi people to move toward democracy. We are moving in a steady—steady steps toward it. We're determined to have a free, democratic, federal Iraq, a country that is a source of stability to the Middle East, which is very important for the rest of the world.

Again, Mr. President, I'd like to thank the American people for the sacrifices that the brave men and women of the United States toward trying to liberate Iraq. We're working with all our hearts to make sure that all these sacrifices of the Iraqis, as well as our friends in the coalition, will not go to avail, that all these will be to the benefit of the Iraqi government.

Thank you very much, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:49 p.m. at Dunbar House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi interim government. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

G–8 Leaders' Statement on Trade

June 9, 2004

We face a moment of strategic economic opportunity: by combining an upturn in growth in various regions with a global reduction in barriers to trade, we can deepen,