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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