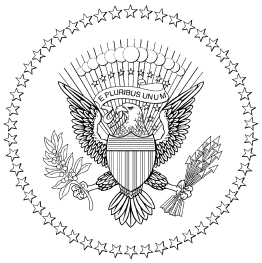
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Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents



Monday, June 14, 2004
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Editor's Note: In order to meet publication and distribution deadlines due to the closing of Government departments and agencies on June 11 as a mark of respect for President Ronald Reagan, the cutoff time for this issue has been advanced to 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2004. Documents released after that time will appear in the next issue.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, June 11, 2004

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.

These efforts deserve the full support of the international community. More importantly, a free Iraq deserves our best efforts, our hard work. Members of the U.N. Security Council and Iraq's new leaders are working toward a new resolution that will express international support for Iraq's interim government. The Security Council resolution will reaffirm the world's security commitment to the Iraqi nation and encourage other U.N. members to join in helping the Iraqi people as they establish a representative government. I want to thank you for your help in this resolution, Mr. Prime Minister.

I also look forward to joining the Prime Minister in Sea Island, Georgia, next week and in Turkey at the NATO conference. Of course, at Sea Island we'll be having the G–8, where we'll discuss the role our great alliances can play in helping Iraq and the role we can play in helping spread democracy throughout the world.

This war on terror we face, Mr. Prime Minister, is the challenge of our time. Democracy and prosperity are the antidotes to the bitterness and hatred that feed terrorism. As freedom advances in the Middle East, more and more people in that region will be inspired—inspired to peace, inspired to dedicate their lives to the welfare of their families and to the success of their nations. The bitterness and burning hatreds that feed terrorism will fade away, and America and Italy and the rest of the world will be more safe.

I want to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, and I want to thank the Italian people for their friendship and courage and vision and hope for the future. We remember the sons of Italy who have given their lives to ensure a better future. I look forward to continuing to work with you to make the world a more secure and better place.

Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Thank you, Mr. President. And I wish to reaffirm here before you and before the press from the U.S. the feelings that are shared by a large majority of the Italian people towards your country that has welcomed millions of Italians that sought a better future in your country. And it was, for them, a very generous home. This is a first reason why we feel great gratitude towards you and your country.

There's another reason, actually, why this celebration is taking place and why you accepted to personally be here to celebrate this important date. Sixty years ago there were 25,000 young Americans who sacrificed their lives to make happier, to make more prosperous and more secure our lives here, to give our country freedom. And we will be eternally grateful to you for this.

We're also grateful because in the postwar period, we faced very difficult times, and America's generosity contributed to the growth of our economy with the Marshall plan.

We have yet another reason to be grateful to you, sir. Through NATO and, therefore, through the contribution of U.S. citizens, Europe and Italy have been able to defend itself against a Soviet Union which at that time had its missiles and nuclear arsenals pointed towards our cities.

And today too we're here together in the name of this spirit of deep friendship, to work together in the effort to make democracy grow and advance throughout the world, to combat this attack to the West that comes from terrorism and from fundamentalism. We think that it's a wrongful idea to think that there are peoples for whom democracy simply does not work. There is nothing that is more wrong than that perception. Democracy means respect for human rights. It means an open and free market. And these, of course, are the fundamental pillars of a world that hopes to look to the future in peace, in security, and well-being.

For all this, Mr. President, we are very close to you, and we're close to you not as allies that always feel that the other is an ally but as loyal friends, and therefore, we feel that whenever criticism is due, we can have the freedom to make that criticism.

I wish to thank you, sir, for the way in which you've always listened to us. I thank you for always having given us the opportunity. We're not part of the U.N. Security Council, of course, but we thank you for having given us the opportunity to have a say in matters and to work together to contribute to the drafting of this last resolution. And we certainly hope that the U.N. is going to

approve this next week. And we're going to be available by participating with our men and women in the peace mission.

Let me just say one last word regarding the reasons why our troops are in Iraq and will stay in Iraq until the new government—the government that will be elected in January next—until that government, I was saying, feels the troops and the other countries can be helpful in maintaining peace, in the construction of a democracy. We're in Iraq exactly for the same reasons why we are in Bosnia, why our men are in Macedonia, why we're in Kosovo, and why we're in Afghanistan, where this morning I guaranteed to the President of the United States—where I was saying Italy will participate with troops—it will participate in Afghanistan's effort to become a democratic country through the elections that are going to be held in the month of September. We're in Iraq for the very same reasons why we have deployed our men in these countries, together with the U.S. forces.

If anyone were to think that it would be advisable to withdraw troops from Iraq, then we would have to do the same from all the other countries in which we have our troops. And we think that this is actually the opposite of what should be done in order to secure peace in these countries, to make sure that they experience no civil wars and that they prosper until they become established democracies.

So thank you for your visit, Mr. President, and thank you very much for everything that the United States will continue to do to spread democracy throughout the world.

With our press offices, we actually established that there will be two questions addressed to the U.S. President and two to the Italian President. So I open the floor for questions. The Americans first.

President's Visit to Italy and the Vatican/ Iraqi Transition

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, you got strong statement of support just now from the Prime Minister. This country has troops in Iraq with the United States troops, and yet, there were many street demonstrations yesterday. There were concerns expressed by the Pope about the U.S. mission. Do you think that your trip to Europe is mending fences or stirring the pot?

And to the Prime Minister, do you anticipate that the troops that you have in Iraq will remain at the same levels for the next coming months? Or will there be more or less?

President Bush. I think—first of all, democracy is a beautiful thing, and I am pleased to be in a country where people are allowed to express their opinion.

I believe the world understands the importance of a free Iraq emerging in the Middle East. There may have been differences of opinion about Saddam Hussein and the enforcement of a U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441. Now the world understands the importance of working with the Iraqis to encourage the development of a free society.

And that's why it is important for me to remind people that there will be a transfer of full sovereignty to an Iraqi government and that the Iraqi people will be making the decisions as to how to proceed forward. And we are there to help them. People in Europe have heard the comments of Prime Minister Alawi and the Foreign Minister, both of whom—who have asked for help in making Iraq secure enough to get to free elections, and we're there to help them do that. And we're there to help them reconstruct their country.

And I sense a spirit of unity in terms of working with the new Iraqi government. That's why we're working closely with nations to get a United Nations Security Council resolution that confirms that which I just said. And I am confident we will get one soon, and I want to thank the Prime Minister for working toward that end.

But one—on the Holy Father. First of all, I had a great visit yesterday. I was honored to be in his presence again. This was my third meeting with His Holiness. And it was such an honor to be in the presence of a strong, godly man. And he and I share concerns about treating people with human dignity.

And I, like His Holiness, I was repulsed by the pictures I saw about the treatment by some of our troops toward Iraqi prisoners. That treatment did not reflect the spirit of America. Those people stained our honor, and there will be a full investigation in a

transparent way about the actions that took place, which will stand in stark contrast to what takes place in a society that is run by a tyrant. And it's important for the people of the Middle East to see the rule of law and to see somebody being held to account in a transparent way. But the visit yesterday was a very constructive, positive visit.

One more from the American side? I'll pick one. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. His name is Steve.

Resignation of the Director of Central Intelligence

Q. After the resignation of George Tenet, how do you keep morale from dropping in the intelligence community at a critical time? Should he be blamed for intelligence failures, and what is the status of those reforms you've been talking about?

President Bush. First, let me say what I said on the way out of town the other day. George Tenet did a superb job for America. It was a high honor to work with him, and I'm sorry he left. He chose to do so for personal reasons. When he came to see me at the White House the night before he departed—the night before he delivered his letter, the night before I departed, I talked about morale within the Agency. And he assured me that morale would remain high because the people inside the Agency understand the vitality of their mission.

The CIA plays a really important role in fighting the war on terror. In order for us to find the thugs who hide in caves and who plot against free people, we must gather intelligence and share intelligence with our friends, so we can bring people to justice before they hurt us again. And the people inside the Agency know that role and know how important that role is.

Secondly, John McLaughlin, who has been at the Agency for a long period of time, has my confidence but, more importantly, has the confidence of the people who work in the Agency.

And finally, in terms of reform, I look forward to working with all the commissions that are looking into the intelligence-gathering apparatus of the United States—including the Silberman-Robb Commission which is now gathering information and will present a report to the country within a year—to come up with recommendations to make sure that we get the best intelligence possible. You cannot win the war on terror unless your intelligence agency has got high morale and is well-structured to fight and win the war of the 21st century.

Make no mistake about it, we're still at war. It's important for the people of Italy to understand, there's still a terrorist network that wants to murder and kill, and what they're trying to do is shake our will. They want us to retreat from the world. They want us to forget our values. They want us to become fearful. They want us to throw up our hands and surrender, which I refuse to do. For the sake of the security of free people, I refuse to relent to the killers, refuse to surrender one inch to people who have hijacked a great religion and who will murder innocent women and children. And fortunately, I've got a strong ally in that view in the Prime Minister of Italy.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I can't but agree with what the American President has just said. Also, in terms of humiliations on the Iraqi prisoners, I must highlight and stress the deep difference between a dictatorship, where torture is the usual, standard practice and is continuous, and the democracy which has the ability to denounce it, to report the mistakes, and to punish in a very clear way, an open way, the culprits, the perpetrators. That's the big difference between totalitarianism and a true, real democracy.

Once again, I would like also to add that the behavior of a few, where in democracy you have the basic principles that responsibility and accountability is personal, the crime of one or a few people cannot be blamed on a whole population.

If you have questions for the Italian Prime Minister, I'm here, ready to answer them.

Anniversary of the Liberation of Rome/ 60th Anniversary of D-Day

Q. I'd like to ask both of you something about the celebrations tomorrow in Normandy. I would like to ask President Bush, don't you feel insulted that one of your allies has not been invited to a celebration—since

Italy participated through resistance in the liberation fight.

And I would like to ask Prime Minister Berlusconi whether he doesn't think and believe that those who exclude Italy and continue to imagine Europe being led just by three countries actually want to have an influence in the domestic choices made in our country.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. The information sources of our friend journalist are very disputable. I must say that the reality is the following. This is the situation: There was a kind of embarrassment by the French President because Italy—because of the historical situation which had taken place in Italy at the D-day. I personally got rid of this embarrassment for the French President, because since I had invited the American President, President Bush, to come to Italy before the celebrations of D-day, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Rome, I believed that it was much more desirable to have just for Italy, only for Rome and for us, a representative of the American people, rather than being part of one celebration where there are going to be 17 Prime Ministers. So I'd rather have him here, alone, than going there, one of 17.

And this is reality. And I thank, once again, President Bush for accepting to come here.

President Bush. I am honored to have this invitation to come. Yesterday at our Embassy, I had the great honor of addressing some of the Americans who came to liberate Italy. In other words, it was a part of a series of events that I have been attending to commemorate what we have called in our country, the Greatest Generation. A week ago or so, I was on The Mall in Washington, DC, where we commemorated a new World War II Memorial. And as part of that series of events to honor young men who came here to sacrifice for the liberty of others, my visit to Rome is very appropriate and necessary. I think they're called—some of them were called the Devil's Brigade. These were young guys from all across America who came into Rome, and I had the honor and chance to thank them personally. And it's necessary the American President honor these folks on Italian soil for the job they did.

And then, of course, I'll be able to pay honor to those who came to Normandy as well. I think it's appropriate, and I appreciate the invitation to be here to do so.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I'd like to add, Mr. President, that we visited together the cemetery of the American soldiers, and together we were moved and touched, 60 years later, in reading those names on the tombstones, in seeing their birth date and their death date. They were 22, 23, 25 years, so very young lives which sacrificed themselves for a higher ideal, that of freedom, and liberate Italy and Europe from totalitarianism, which had been the disease affecting our continent. And America twice came here to—[*inaudible*]—after being a rib from Europe, America came back here to give its contribution to Europe to keep Europe in freedom. And today this new Europe, which was joined by other 10 countries which have been subject for 70 years to the communist totalitarianism, I think that this new Europe will be more capable and able to feel the unity and unification with United States and to be together with United States to make up the West.

Italy is working for this. Italy is working in order to keep European Union close to the United States to strengthen our friendship, because only through joint action we will succeed in fighting this recent war, the war caused by the terror attacks. We can win together. We must win together. We will win together.

Another question?

Iraqi Transition/Proposed U.N. Security Council Resolution

Q. Good morning.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Do you have the same sources as your colleague?

Q. No, I don't think I do. No, really I have a question for both Presidents. I'd like to know exactly what's the role of Italy in the development of what might be a new U.N. resolution for Iraq?

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Well, you want to know the highlights?

Q. Yes, I'd like to know about Italy's role in that development.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I see. Well, I think perhaps it should be the President to answer that question.

President Bush. Well, I'll be glad to answer it. Last week the Prime Minister came to the Oval Office. He wanted assurances that there would be a full transfer of sovereignty to an Iraqi government. You might remember—7 days ago, I guess it was that you were there—that there was some doubt as to—in people's minds as to whether or not we intended to participate in a full transfer of sovereignty. I assured him that not only that was our intention, that would be—his desires would be reflected in the United Nations Security Council resolution.

There's a variety of issues that he sought assurances on. He fully understands, for example, that our troops must be there at the request of a sovereign government. In other words, when you transfer a full sovereignty, the government must say, "We welcome your help." And that's precisely what is happening.

Again, I repeat what I said before. The Prime Minister as well as the Foreign Minister not only thanked us for our contributions but asked us to stay there to help the Iraqis step up the security forces necessary to make sure the country is peaceful enough for elections to be held. That's what they want; they want to hold elections.

And by the way, the terrorists don't want elections, and that's just their nature, see. They're frightened of freedom. And that's why they kill indiscriminately, to stop—to try to stop this march toward a free society. And it will be a major defeat in their cause.

These terrorists, by the way, hold—have an ideology that is very much like that ideology which subjected the people of Afghanistan to brutality, that basically demeans women, that doesn't believe in rule of law, that doesn't believe in free thought or free religion. That's what they want, and they would like to spread that ideology, particularly in the Middle East.

And I equate the struggle we have today with the struggle we had with communism in Europe after World War II. And the free world could have either yielded to communism or stood up to communism right after World War II. And fortunately, we stood up to communism, and now, Europe is free, whole, and peaceful. And we have the same issue today. And the fundamental question is: Will we hold the line and uphold our values and work to spread democracy, or will we yield to terrorism and resentment and hatred?

And this is a turning point in history. It's an important moment. And one of the reasons why I'm proud to stand here with the Prime Minister is he understands the stakes; he understands the importance. And like me, he shares a great sense of optimism about the future.

And so I'm proud to be with you, Mr. Prime Minister. It's great to be back in this beautiful city. You've got a fantastic country. And our country is better off because of the contributions of millions of Italian Americans, I might add. And thanks for having me. God bless.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I have to give my answer——

President Bush. I thought you wanted me to answer the question. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Berlusconi. [*Inaudible*]—Mr. President. I simply wish to say that we've been very, very happy to have been able to give our contribution. In spite—and this is something we ought to remember—in spite of the fact that we're not members of the U.N. Security Council, which I don't think is something that this Government is responsible for.

There is one point, I believe, that was not introduced, a point that I was able to discuss with the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Putin, which has to do with the calling of an international conference on Iraq. And I'd like to explain the reasons why this point was not discussed, or is not found in the current draft of the resolution. As this resolution—or rather, as sovereignty will be transferred to the new Iraqi government, it was believed that it will be precisely the new Iraqi government to decide on whether or not it may be useful and possible to hold an international conference. And this too I think is evidence of the sovereignty that is not just words but that is something that we believe in seriously, concretely, and transparently.

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you to the press, from the U.S. especially. Thank

you to everyone, and best of luck in your work.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at approximately 11:15 a.m. at the Villa Madama. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi and Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari of the Iraqi interim government; and Pope John Paul II. Prime Minister Berlusconi referred to President Jacques Chirac of France; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Prime Minister Berlusconi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Proclamation 7792—D-Day National Remembrance Day, 2004

June 5, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Sixty years ago, the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force invaded Normandy in northern France to open a new front in our war against Nazism and tyranny. The courage of these troops turned the tide of World War II and changed the fate of the world forever. Their extraordinary service in the face of great danger demonstrated the finest qualities of our Nation and of our Allies, and millions around the world today live in freedom because of their sacrifice. By remembering the heroic actions of our Armed Forces at Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword beaches in 1944, we honor a generation who served this country and saved liberty for people everywhere.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 6, 2004, as D-Day National Remembrance Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this occasion with appropriate activities, ceremonies and programs designed to honor those who served and sacrificed to liberate Europe and defend America's freedom and security.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of June, 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, 12:01 p.m., June 7, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 8.

Proclamation 7793—National Child's Day, 2004

June 5, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Children are a precious gift and a source of great hope for our future. National Child's Day celebrates children and reminds us of the importance of nurturing a child's personal development and providing a safe environment in which to grow.

Children need our guidance and support. During this time in America's history, teaching our children to love our Nation and its values remains a critical responsibility. We need to help young people understand that freedom is God's gift to every man and woman and that America's legacy is one of ensuring liberty for all. Our children also need to know about what other generations have done to build and preserve this great country, including the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have defended our Nation. To help prepare our next generation of leaders to carry on America's tradition of freedom, my Administration has launched the "We the People" initiative to improve the teaching of history and civics in America's schools, along with the "Our Documents" initiative to help make the treasures in our Nation's archives more accessible to students and teachers.

Building a solid foundation of character education for our young people helps to keep our country strong. We live by the immutable values that families, schools, and religious congregations instill in us. To assist these fundamental institutions as they shape generations of Americans, my Administration is

supporting Partnerships in Character Education, which helps establish educational programs that focus on caring, civic virtue, citizenship, justice, fairness, respect, responsibility, and trustworthiness. It is essential to teach these morals with confidence and conviction, as they will guide America's children through their lives.

Government cannot replace the love of a family in a child's life, but it can help create an environment where children can grow into healthy, responsible adults. My Administration has taken several steps to strengthen education and promote the safety and well-being of America's children. I signed the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to transform education and open the door of opportunity to all of our children. We have also strengthened laws to protect children from criminals and expanded the AMBER Alert system to help recover abducted children. And because the decisions young people make now can affect their health and character for the rest of their lives, my Administration is working to send positive messages to children to help them make healthy lifestyle choices, avoid the dangers of drug use, and to develop healthy eating and exercise habits early in life.

On National Child's Day, we recognize the importance of working together to create a society that is safe for our children, and we renew our commitment to helping families build a bright future for young people and our Nation.

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 June 6, 2004, as National Child's Day. I urge all Americans to set a positive example for children and to work to ensure that their communities are safe and supportive places that help young people grow and reach their full potential. I also call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of June, 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, 12:01 p.m., June 7, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 8.

The President's News Conference With President Jacques Chirac of France in Paris, France

June 5, 2004

President Chirac. Very well, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, let me tell you how happy I am to welcome the U.S. President most warmly. He has come to Europe on the occasion, of course, of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of D-day. And tomorrow during the course of the ceremonies which will take place in Normandy and in the presence of the veterans and, in particular, of the American veterans of Operation Overlord, I will have the opportunity to say to America and to Americans just how deeply grateful we are to them today, how grateful we are in the knowledge of the sacrifices they made, of the blood that they spilled—their own blood—for the liberation of our country and of Europe as a whole. And I will say to them that France says thank you and that France does not forget.

Now, on the occasion of the celebratory ceremonies, President Bush, who has come to Europe, went first to Italy, as you know, and today has joined us in France, which has enabled us to run through a certain number of issues, especially in light of the up-and-coming summits, major summits that are going to be taking place in June, the G–8 in Sea Island in a few days time and the Istanbul Summit, later summit at the end of the month.

As you can imagine, we had very open, honest, confident discussions on a host of different issues pertaining to the world today. I say open and sincere and trusting, because from time to time, I read comments that are not actually very reflective of the truth. France and the U.S. have 200 years of shared

history, and for 200 years now, for two centuries now, we have defended the same and upheld the self-same values, which are the values of democracy, of peace, of human rights. And therefore, dialog has always been easy and made easy because of that, on those matters on which we see likewise and also on other issues. And there are a number of issues in which we are standing shoulder to shoulder, and we discuss them and run through them, and that is all that pertains to peace and stability throughout the world.

We, of course, touched upon our very strong cooperation in terms of our fight against terrorism, and in that connection, we have, over the last 2 years, considerably strengthened our cooperation, our collaboration. Likewise, in combating proliferation, a subject—[*inaudible*]—on which we have like-minded views and exemplary cooperation, as, indeed, evidenced by PSI program cooperation or the vote on Resolution 1540 of the U.N. Security Council.

We touched upon regional crises and, in particular, operations to maintain peace where French and American soldiers are working together. I think here of Afghanistan, where France is part and parcel of Operation Enduring Freedom. Likewise, also, still in connection with Afghanistan, the international force which is going to be commanded shortly by a French general in Kabul. We also have excellent cooperation in the Balkans, be it in Bosnia, be it in Kosovo. We have cooperated to avoid, to stem off the worst in Haiti, and that's also in quite exceptionally good ways.

We have expressed our common anxiety in light of what is happening in Africa and, in particular, what we see looming in Kivu—in the Kivu region, and all that that means in terms of threats to peace and stability in the region. And we're very worried about the peace and stability of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Now, on the subject of Iraq, where we all know that our countries have had somewhat different approaches and solutions about a vision of the situation which was not similar. That being said, we share one and the same conviction today, namely, that there is no alternative to restoring peace and therefore to restoring security and development in Iraq and that no effort must be spared in achieving this.

And evidently, the discussions taking place within the U.N. Security Council basically aimed at adopting a resolution, which given the present state of affairs in Iraq, must say loud and clear that the international community is hellbent on achieving one objective, which is returning sovereignty to an Iraqi government, which will give hope to Iraqis and the people of Iraq. So we are entirely like-minded on that.

And I believe that things are moving in the right direction. Discussions have been characterized by a very positive spirit, and I very much hope that very shortly, in the next few days, we will come up with a resolution which indeed reflects what to us is of the essence, namely, to give the Iraqis themselves the sense that they have recovered their own sovereignty and that their own destiny is in their own hands, because that seems to us a *sine qua non* for any future solution to the problems which this country necessarily faces.

Of course, we also touched upon the conflict in the Middle East because, as I said to the President, we are very worried when we see that this conflict is continuing to spread, with all the knock-on effects, regionally speaking and beyond the region. And we cannot ignore the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese dimensions of the problem. And on the subject of Lebanon, precisely, we have expressed renewed conviction and belief that Lebanon has to be ensured that its independence and sovereignty are guaranteed.

Within a few days, we'll be meeting again at the G–8 Summit at Sea Island, where we will discuss decisions to be taken, talks to be entered into, in respect of a certain number of issues having to do with growth, development, employment, security, obviously, the fight against terrorism, and proliferation, but also development in general and sustainable development in particular.

So, before I give the floor to President Bush, I should like to conclude by once again expressing to him my warmest welcome.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. Laura and I are honored to be back in this beautiful country on the anniversary

of a momentous day in the history of freedom.

Tomorrow I will join the President and other leaders at the Normandy beaches to commemorate the Allied landing 60 years ago. We will honor the many thousands of veterans, living and lost, who took part in that battle. It will be a time to reflect on the sacrifices that helped to defeat fascism and to restore the liberty of France and of Western Europe.

We will also remember the timeless lessons that D-day teaches, that sacrifices must always be borne in the defense of freedom, that free nations working together can overcome danger, and that the deepest source of strength of any army is the values for which it fights.

I appreciate all the hard work, Mr. President, that went into planning this year's D-day ceremonies, and I congratulate you and all those involved. It's going to be a spectacular day.

I also appreciate the chance to talk to the President and to hear his views on a variety of issues, on the common challenges we face. Today we discussed the future of Iraq as a free and democratic state. Our coalition will soon hand over full sovereignty to an Iraqi government. Iraq's new Prime Minister Alawi and his cabinet are working hard to provide security and to prepare their country for national elections that will bring forward new leaders empowered by the Iraqi people. The interim government is the first step in a political process, outlined in the transitional administrative law, which will lead to the first democratic elections in Iraq's history, elections to take place no later than January 2005. At the request of the interim government, the request of the Prime Minister, multinational forces will remain in Iraq to help this new government succeed in its vital work.

Free Iraq deserves the full support of the international community, and I appreciate our discussions. The Iraqi people want and deserve freedom, peace, and prosperity, and the nations of the world have a responsibility to help them achieve that. Members of the U.N. Security Council are working with Iraq's new leaders toward a new resolution that will express international support for Iraq's interim government, that will reaffirm the world's security commitment to the Iraqi nation, and encourage other U.N. members to help in joining the Iraqi people as they establish a representative government.

The President and I discussed our common goals in the broader Middle East. We seek freedom and the peace that freedom brings. We seek political and social reform, the true stability that results when people are free to live and think and worship as they choose. We know that freedom cannot be imposed from abroad, but free nations can and must choose to ally ourselves with reformers wherever they are and with reform wherever it occurs.

I fully know that democratization is not the same as Westernization. Nations as different as Romania and the Philippines, Nicaragua and Senegal and Turkey show that freedom takes different forms around the globe and that new liberties can find an honored place amidst ancient traditions. Democratic governments in the Middle East will reflect their own cultures and their own traditions. America and France are working with many allies and friends in the region and beyond to support the increase of reform, which will serve as the antidote to terror.

As the President mentioned, we'll be going to Sea Island, Georgia, where we will discuss ways to build partnerships between the world's great democracies and the nations of the broader Middle East. I look forward to those discussions. Later this month we'll bring the same message and the same challenge to the NATO Summit in Turkey.

The President and I also share—had discussions about the Holy Land. We seek two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. I support the establishment of a Palestinian state that is viable, contiguous, sovereign, and independent. And I realize that security is the foundation for peace and the starting point for all progress in the Middle East.

I believe that Israel needs a truly responsible partner in achieving peace. I believe the Palestinian people deserve democratic institutions and responsible leaders. So for the sake of peace, I'm committed to helping the Palestinian people establish a democratic and

viable state of their own. And I look forward to working with President Chirac to achieve that objective.

The United States and France also agree that the people of Lebanon should be free to determine their own future, without foreign interference or domination.

Our two nations are working together to bring peace and security to other parts of the globe. We're in Haiti together. We're in Afghanistan together. We're working to ensure that Iran meets its commitments to the IAEA and does not develop nuclear weapons. The President talked about our mutual concerns on the continent of Africa.

We're proud countries with deep traditions rooted in freedom and equality and justice. These common values enable us to work together for the good of world peace, and I look forward to doing that with you, Mr. President.

Thank you for your hospitality.

Now—Jim Angle [FOX News].

Coalition Security Arrangement With Iraqi Interim Government/U.N. Security Council Resolution

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. As we understand, there has been an exchange of letters between the new interim government in Iraq and the coalition. I wonder if you could tell us a little something about that, Mr. President.

And President Chirac, if I may, sir, I assume you've been told about this. Do you now believe that the new Iraqi government will get full sovereignty? And do you have any remaining objections about a new U.N. resolution?

President Bush. One of the issues that I have been asked about quite frequently was whether or not the Iraqi government would be able to determine its security needs. And I said, "Absolutely. That's the definition of sovereignty." And I also assured the American people at several news conferences that we have entered into these kind of security agreements in the past that recognize the sovereignty of the host government. And the exchange of letters does just that. The exchange of letters between the Prime Minister and the coalition lays out the parameters of security, of the security cooperation in Iraq. And this is a positive step forward.

President Chirac. On the subject of the resolution, again, I repeat what I said earlier on. I think we have progressed. We have moved forward positively, and we should be able to put the finishing touches to this text very shortly. Now, yes, we still have to qualify the matter pertaining to security arrangements that establish relations between the Iraqi government—the government that, obviously, we wish to see sovereign and full authority—and the multinational force. And as you rightly said, an exchange of letters between the Iraqi government and the international force whose thrust has to be picked up in the language of the resolution is happening right now. And I hope all of this can take place very speedily.

In my view, in my view, what is important here, in all the technicalities of all of this, what is important is to ensure that the Iraqi people, that the Iraqis truly have the sense that they have recovered their independence, their sovereignty, and that they hold their own destiny in their hands. I think that that is the only way forward if we want to solve the considerable problems that are arising in this country and to be able to contain the very strong forces in situ, as it were. And I feel it's very important that we send no negative signal to the Iraqis in the sense that we might in any way be undermining their sovereignty, because that would undermine their confidence.

Yes, a question?

France-U.S. Relations/Abu Ghraib Prison

Q. Thank you, sir. I would have a question for Mr. Bush. Once, President Kennedy said, "Everyone has two countries, their own and France." And why is it that your policy tends to be pushing your country and France to divorce?

Second point, some in public opinion have accused you of state terrorism, and do you not believe that what has happened in Abu Ghraib has put you in the same basket, as it were, as Saddam Hussein, especially in the eyes of an international tribunal and especially in light of the unfound weapons of mass destruction?

President Bush. To paraphrase President Kennedy: There's America, and then there's Texas.

We have great relations with France. We work closely with the French Government on a lot of issues. I just laid out a lot of the issues that we're working together on, as did the President. We're working to stop proliferation. We're working in Haiti. We're working on the continent of Africa. We're working to feed the hungry. We're working to make sure that the pandemic of AIDS gets—that the people get the help they need to arrest the pandemic of AIDS in Africa. No, there are a lot of issues we work on.

As for the prison abuse issue, I am—I was humiliated, as was most of my country. Those soldiers didn't reflect the character of the American people. They didn't—they stained our honor, and the world will see a full investigation of those—of that humiliation, which will stand in stark contrast to what takes place in states run by tyrants. And there will be a full investigation in a transparent way, and those that violated rules will be held to account.

Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News]. *Monsieur* Gregory. [*Laughter*]

France's Role in the Middle East/Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. President Chirac, given the fact that your Government also believed that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq prior to the war, do you believe that there was a worldwide intelligence failure? And despite your opposition to the war, do you believe that Iraq is better or worse off today?

Mr. President, what role specifically would you like the French to play in Iraq going forward? *Merci.*

President Bush. Listen, the French are going to provide great advice. President Chirac has got good judgment about the Middle East, and he understands those countries well. The French are going to work together to put out a U.N. Security Council resolution that sends a clear signal the free world is united in helping Iraq. And those are great contributions, for which I am grateful, and so is my Nation.

Q. President Chirac—*Monsieur Presidente*?

President Chirac. Yes, you said that the French Government, if I've understood you rightly, prior to the war had stated that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and that is not correct. I have always said that I had no information that would lead me to believe that there were or were not, for that matter, weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. That's a fact. All the information available to us at that time and on that subject did not allow us to take a stand or to reach any conclusion, which is why I said to President Bush that I, personally, was incapable of saying whether or not there were weapons of mass destruction.

Conditions in Iraq

Q. Do you believe that—despite your opposition to the war, do you believe that today Iraq is better or worse off?

President Chirac. Well, one thing is for certain sure, which is the tyrannical regime of Saddam Hussein is no longer in power, and that is a positive thing. It's a positive step. What's less positive is that there is a degree of chaos prevailing, and our problem today is to try and contain—or build upon what has been achieved in positive terms. In other words, open the way to what could be a form of democracy and ensure that the forces which are in a confrontational mode be pacified. But this is something we will see further down the road. We have certainly not put the difficulties behind us. Do not believe that. We are in a situation which is extremely precarious.

Q. Mr. President, to what extent is the comparison made by President Bush between the liberation of Europe from nazism 60 years ago, which we're celebrating today, or tomorrow rather, and the liberation of Iraq by American forces a year ago—to what extent do you feel that this comparison is just and justified?

President Chirac. I fully understand what led President Bush to establish or to make this comparison, if only for the reasons of circumstance. I mean, what are we celebrating today and tomorrow? And I think, nonetheless, that history does not repeat itself, and it is very difficult to compare historical situations that differ, because history is not repetitive. And there is a situation

which we defined earlier on in Iraq, prevailing in Iraq, which has to be contained and has to be mastered. There's a lot to be done. We are going to have to roll up our sleeves and put a lot of our hearts and our minds into doing this. And, perhaps—perhaps, we will succeed.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 7:41 p.m. at the Elysee Palace. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi interim government. President Chirac referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks on the Death of President Ronald Reagan in Paris

June 6, 2004

This is a sad hour in the life of America. A great American life has come to an end. I have just spoken to Nancy Reagan. On behalf of our whole Nation, Laura and I offered her and the Reagan family our prayers and our condolences.

Ronald Reagan won America's respect with his greatness and won its love with his goodness. 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. He leaves behind a nation he restored and a world he helped save.

During the years of President Reagan, America laid to rest an era of division and self-doubt. And because of his leadership, the world laid to rest an era of fear and tyranny. Now, in laying our leader to rest, we say thank you.

He always told us that for America, the best was yet to come. We comfort ourselves in the knowledge that this is true for him too. His work is done, and now a shining city awaits him.

May God bless Ronald Reagan.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:41 a.m. at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the 60th Anniversary of D-Day in Colleville-sur-Mer, France

June 6, 2004

Mr. President and Mrs. Chirac; Secretary Powell and Secretary Principi; General Myers; Members of the United States Congress; my fellow Americans; and ladies and gentlemen: It is a high honor to represent the American people here at Normandy on the 6th of June, 2004.

Twenty summers ago, another American President came here to Normandy to pay tribute to the men of D-day. He was a courageous man himself and a gallant leader in the cause of freedom. And today we honor the memory of Ronald Reagan.

Mr. President, thank you for your gracious welcome to the reunion of Allies. History reminds us that France was America's first friend in the world. With us today are Americans who first saw this place at a distance, in the half-light of a Tuesday morning long ago. Time and providence have brought them back to see once more the beaches and the cliffs, the crosses and the Stars of David.

Generations to come will know what happened here, but these men heard the guns. Visitors will always pay respects at this cemetery, but these veterans come looking for a name and remembering faces and voices from a lifetime ago. Today we honor all the veterans of Normandy and all their comrades who never left.

On this day in 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt addressed the American people, not with a speech but with a prayer. He prayed that God would bless America's sons and "Lead them straight and true." He continued, "They will need Thy blessings. They will be sore tired, by night and by day, without rest—until victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war."

As Americans prayed along, more than 12,000 Allied aircraft and about 5,000 naval vessels were carrying out General Eisenhower's order of the day. In this massive undertaking, there was a plan for everything, except for failure. Eisenhower said, "This operation is planned as a victory, and that's the way it is going to be."

They had waited for one break in the weather, and then it came. Men were sent in by parachute and by glider. And on this side of the Channel, through binoculars and gunsights, German soldiers could see coming their way the greatest armada anyone had ever seen. In the lead were hundreds of landing craft carrying brave and frightened men.

Only the ones who made that crossing can know what it was like. They tell of the pitching deck, the whistles of shells from the battleships behind them, the white jets of water from enemy fire around them, and then the sound of bullets hitting the steel ramp that was about to fall. One GI later said, "As our boat touched sand and the ramp went down, I became a visitor to hell."

Hitler's Atlantic Wall was composed of mines and tank obstacles, trenches and jutting cliffs, gun emplacements and pillboxes, barbed wire, machinegun nests, and artillery trained accurately on the beach. In the first wave of the landing here at Omaha, one unit suffered 91 percent casualties. As General Omar Bradley later wrote, "Six hours after the landings, we held only 10 yards of beach." A British commando unit had half its men killed or wounded while taking the town of St. Aubin. A D-day veteran remembers, "The only thing that made me feel good was to look around and try to find somebody who looked more scared than I felt. That man was hard to find."

At all the beaches and landing grounds of D-day, men saw some images they would spend a lifetime preferring to forget. One soldier carries the memory of three paratroopers dead and hanging from telephone poles "like a horrible crucifixion scene." All who fought saw images of pain and death, raw and relentless.

The men of D-day also witnessed scenes they would proudly and faithfully recount, scenes of daring and self-giving that went beyond anything the Army or the country could ask. They remember men like Technician 5th Grade John Pinder, Jr., whose job was to deliver vital radio equipment to the beach. He was gravely wounded before he hit shore, and he kept going. He delivered the radio and, instead of taking cover, went back into the surf three more times to salvage equipment. Under constant enemy fire, this young man from Pennsylvania was shot twice again and died on the beach below us.

The ranks of the Allied Expeditionary Force were filled with men who did a specific assigned task, from clearing mines to unloading boats to scaling cliffs, whatever the danger, whatever the cost. And the sum of this duty was an unstoppable force. By the end of June 6th, 1944, more than 150,000 Allied soldiers had breached Fortress Europe.

When the news of D-day went out to the world, the world understood the immensity of the moment. The New York Daily News pulled its lead stories to print the Lord's Prayer on its front page. In Ottawa, the Canadian Parliament rose to sing "God Save the King" and the "Marseillaise." Broadcasting from London, King George told his people, "This time the challenge is not to fight to survive but to fight to win." Broadcasting from Paris, Nazi authorities told citizens that anyone cooperating with the Allies would be shot, and across France, the Resistance defied those warnings.

Near the village of Colleville, a young woman on a bicycle raced to her parents' farmhouse. She was worried for their safety. Seeing the shattered windows and partially caved-in roof, Anne Marie Broeckx called for her parents. As they came out of the damaged house, her father shouted, "My daughter, this is a great day for France."

As it turned out, it was a great day for Anne Marie as well. The liberating force of D-day included the young American soldier she would marry, an Army private who was fighting a half a mile away on Omaha Beach. It was another fine moment in Franco-American relations. [*Laughter*]

In Amsterdam, a 14-year-old girl heard the news of D-day over the radio in her attic hiding place. She wrote in her diary, "It still seems too wonderful, too much like a fairytale. The thought of friends in delivery fills us with confidence." Anne Frank even ventured to hope, "I may yet be able to go back to school in September or October."

That was not to be. The Nazis still had about 50 divisions and more than 800,000 soldiers in France alone. D-day-plus-1 and D-day-plus-2 and many months of fierce fighting lay ahead, from Arnhem to Hurtgen Forest to the Bulge.

Across Europe, Americans shared the battle with Britains, Canadians, Poles, Free French, and brave citizens from other lands taken back one by one from Nazi rule. In the trials and total sacrifice of the war, we became inseparable Allies. The nations that liberated a conquered Europe would stand together for the freedom of all of Europe. The nations that battled across the Continent would become trusted partners in the cause of peace. And our great Alliance of freedom is strong, and it is still needed today.

The generation we honor on this anniversary, all the men and women who labored and bled to save this continent, took a more practical view of the military mission. Americans wanted to fight and win and go home. And our GIs had a saying: "The only way home is through Berlin." That road to V-E Day was hard and long and traveled by weary and valiant men, and history will always record where that road began. It began here, with the first footprints on the beaches of Normandy.

Twenty years after D-day, former President Eisenhower returned to this place and walked through these rows. He spoke of his joy of being a grandfather, and then he said, "When I look at all these graves, I think of the parents back in the States whose only son is buried here. Because of their sacrifice, they don't have the pleasure of grandchildren. Because of their sacrifice, my grandchildren are growing up in freedom."

The Supreme Commander knew where the victory was won and where the greatest debt was owed. Always our thoughts and hearts were turned to the sons of America who came here and now rest here. We think of them as you, our veterans, last saw them. We think of men not far from boys who found the courage to charge toward death and who often, when death came, were heard to call, "Mom," and "Mother, help me." We think of men in the promise years of life, loved and mourned and missed to this day.

Before the landing in Omaha, Sergeant Earl Parker of Bedford, Virginia, proudly passed around a picture of Danny, the newborn daughter he had never held. He told the fellows, "If I could see this daughter of mine, I wouldn't mind dying." Sergeant Parker is remembered here at the Garden of the Missing. And he is remembered back home by a woman in her 60s who proudly shows a picture of her handsome, smiling young dad.

All who are buried and named in this place are held in the loving memory of America. We pray in the peace of this cemetery that they have reached the far shore of God's mercy.

And we still look with pride on the men of D-day, on those who served and went on. It is a strange turn of history that called on young men from the prairie towns and city streets of America to cross an ocean and throw back the marching, mechanized evils of fascism. And those young men did it. You did it.

That difficult summit was reached, then passed in 60 years of living. Now has come a time of reflection, with thoughts of another horizon and the hope of reunion with the boys you knew. I want each of you to understand, you will be honored ever and always by the country you served and by the nations you freed.

When the invasion was finally over and the guns were silent, this coast, we are told, was lined for miles with the belongings of the thousands who fell. There were lifebelts and canteens and socks and K-rations and helmets and diaries and snapshots. And there were Bibles, many Bibles, mixed with the wreckage of war. Our boys had carried in their pockets the book that brought into the world this message: Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

America honors all the liberators who fought here in the noblest of causes, and America would do it again for our friends. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:27 a.m. at the Normandy American Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to President Jacques Chirac of France and his wife, Bernadette; and Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Jacques Chirac.

Proclamation 7794—Announcing the Death of Ronald Reagan

June 6, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

To the People of the United States:

It is my sad duty to announce officially the death of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States, on June 5, 2004.

We are blessed to live in a Nation, and a world, that have been shaped by the will, the leadership, and the vision of Ronald Reagan.

With an unshakable faith in the values of our country and the character of our people, Ronald Reagan renewed America's confidence and restored our Nation. His optimism, strength, and humility epitomized the American spirit. He always told us that for America the best was yet to come.

Ronald Reagan believed that God takes the side of justice and that America has a special calling to oppose tyranny and defend freedom. Through his courage and determination, 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, Ronald Reagan helped change the world.

President Reagan has left us, but he has left us stronger and better. We take comfort in the knowledge that he has left us for a better place, the shining city that awaits him.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, in honor and tribute to the memory of Ronald Reagan, and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff at the White House and on all buildings, grounds, and Naval vessels of the United States for a period of 30 days from the day of his death. I also direct that for the same length of time, the representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall make similar arrangements for the display of the flag at half-staff over their Embassies, Legations, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and stations.

I hereby order that suitable honors be rendered by units of the Armed Forces under orders of the Secretary of Defense.

I do further appoint Friday, June 11, 2004, as a National Day of Mourning throughout the United States. I call on the American people to assemble on that day in their respective places of worship, there to pay homage to the memory of President Reagan. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, 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, 12:01 p.m., June 7, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 8.

Executive Order 13343—Providing for the Closing of Government Departments and Agencies on June 11, 2004

June 6, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. All executive departments, independent establishments, and other governmental agencies shall be closed on June 11, 2004, as a mark of respect for Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States. That day shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 of February 11, 1971, and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the pay and leave of employees of the United States.

Sec. 2. The first sentence of section 1 of this order shall not apply to those offices and installations, or parts thereof, in the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, or other departments,

independent establishments, and governmental agencies that the heads thereof determine should remain open for reasons of national security or defense or other essential public business.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 6, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:02 p.m., June 7, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 8.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan and an Exchange With Reporters at Sea Island, Georgia

June 8, 2004

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome my friend and a strong leader, the Prime Minister of Japan, to Sea Island, Georgia. I've really been looking forward to this lunch because every time I meet with the Prime Minister, we have a constructive and important dialog.

The first thing, of course, I will do is congratulate him on the fact that the Japanese economy is improving under his leadership. We will talk about security issues. We'll talk about our mutual desire to fight terror. We will talk about North Korea. We will talk about Iraq, and in doing so, I know I'm talking with a leader I can trust and a leader who has got good, sound judgment.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Koizumi. First of all, I would like to express my condolences to the pass away of President Reagan. I would like to pay respect to his achievement, especially in numerous achievements, especially in strengthening our Japan-U.S. bilateral relationship.

Today, I was very much looking forward to meeting with President Bush in order to discuss Iraq, North Korea, and those issues from a viewpoint of Japan-U.S. alliance in the global context. As the international community has to cooperate in order to reconstruct Iraq, I would like to pay respect to his strong leadership of President Bush in meeting this international coordination.

And also on the North Korea issue, President Bush has strongly supported the Japanese policy, and we would like to—Japan and the U.S. would like to coordinate together, consult together in the issue of North Korea in order to come up with a peace in Korean Peninsula.

And in this difficult—even in the difficult and hard conditions, President Bush has shown his strong determination and commitment, and he is a man of determination. So with President Bush we would like to maintain our Japan-U.S. cooperation in order to come up with peace and stability in the world.

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

Proposed U.N. Security Council Resolution/Troop Levels in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, originally you had hoped that a U.N. resolution on Iraq would lead to more troops. Now you're on the verge of getting that U.N. resolution, and yet, we haven't heard much about more troops. In fact, France, Germany, Russia, and Canada have said they won't send troops under any circumstance. Have you pretty much given up on getting these allies to send troops, or is there still hope that you can persuade them?

President Bush. First, I'm delighted that we're about to get a Security Council resolution. There were some who said we'd never get one, and it looks like if things go well, it will be a unanimous vote—thereby saying to the world that members of the Security Council are interested in working together to make sure that Iraq is free and peaceful and democratic. I think this is a very important moment on the—on making sure that our objective is achieved.

These nations understand that a free Iraq will serve as a catalyst for change in the broader Middle East, which is an important part of winning the war on terror. I expect nations to contribute as they see fit. But of course, the key to long-term security in Iraq is for all of us to work together to train Iraqi troops to handle their own security measures.

And that's precisely what we are doing on the ground, and we will work with other nations to do as well.

President Ronald Reagan

Q. Mr. President, there are a lot of remembrances about Ronald Reagan this week. What lessons have you learned from the Presidency of Ronald Reagan? And have you modeled your political style after him at all?

President Bush. Ronald Reagan will go down in history as a great American President because he had a core set of principles from which he would not deviate. He understood that a leader is a person who sets clear goals and makes decisions based upon principles that are etched in his soul, and our Nation will miss him. I had the honor of speaking to Mrs. Reagan from Paris, France, and expressed Laura and my condolences to her and her family, and the Nation will be doing so as well on Friday.

Thank you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:31 p.m. at Dunbar House. Prime Minister Koizumi spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada at Sea Island

June 8, 2004

President Bush. I'm so honored to have a chance to visit with you again, Mr. Prime Minister. I look forward to our discussions. We've got great relations, and relations with Canada are, as far as I'm concerned, very important relations.

And we will continue our discussions on mad cow and softwood lumber. You've always been a strong advocate of Canadian interests, of course, and I appreciate that. Hopefully we can resolve the mad cow quickly—that you've asked me to do and that we will continue to work on a softwood lumber agreement that's beneficial to both countries.

Canada is a great friend, and you've been very cooperative at figuring out ways to cooperate in the war on terror. The Prime Minister has got a clear vision about the dangers that face the free world, and for that I'm grateful too. So I look forward to our discussions, sir.

Prime Minister Martin. Well, thank you very much. First of all, Mr. President, I thank you for having us all here. This is an absolutely spectacular, beautiful spot. And I think that we're all very, very glad to be here.

In terms of the war on terror, this is a—we feel every bit as strongly about it as you. And the fact is that we are all at peril here, and we have all got to win this war. And Canada certainly intends to do our part, and we stand with you foursquare against global terrorism.

If you'll also allow me simply to say, now that I'm here, I really—certainly on my own behalf and on behalf of all of the Canadian people, how—how much we regret the passing of President Reagan and what a tremendous contribution he made to the free world. I don't think there's any doubt that he is one of the great influential people of the second half of the last century. His effect in bringing the cold war to an end is one for which historians will laud him forever. And so I think that you—at the same time, while you feel very badly—I'm sure you feel very, very proud, and I think the American people can feel proud.

President Bush. Thanks, Paul. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:58 p.m. at Dunbar House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany at Sea Island

June 8, 2004

President Bush. Thanks. It's great to see you. I want the folks to know how much I appreciate your willingness to work on promoting freedom around the world, and it's an important statement, and I appreciate your Government's good work.

I appreciate very much the Chancellor's help in Afghanistan. That country is improving, and that's important. I appreciate our mutual work on the U.N. Security Council

resolution on Iraq. I look forward to continuing our dialog in a spirit of cooperation and friendship, and I'm glad you're here.

Chancellor Schroeder. Thank you very much. And let me say, I love to be here, particularly since the weather is—compared to what we are used to—so nice and so favorable. [*Laughter*]

And I think what we're talking about here at this meeting will be essentially something that, indeed, forms part of one whole and something that is an indissoluble, namely a good world economy on the one hand and stable political situation—a stable political environment on the other.

We are willing to give our contribution, and we, indeed, give our contribution to this in Afghanistan, for example, but also on the Balkans. And let me say that I'm gratified to know that this is appreciated.

I am confident that the resolution—the United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq will be adopted today. Whatever we can do to bring this about, we will certainly do. We think that this resolution will be a good basis, a good foundation for enhancing stability, for also improving the chances for the Iraqi people, and also to enhance stability all around in that region that is—I think we would all agree—a difficult one. And I think that this is, indeed, our common task. It is something that we shall work on together. And well, thank you again for your gracious hospitality.

President Bush. Thanks, Gerhard. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:43 p.m. at Dunbar House. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia at Sea Island

June 8, 2004

President Bush. I always enjoy talking to my friend Vladimir Putin. He's a strong leader who cares deeply about the people of his country and understands the issues that we face. We just had a long discussion about a variety of issues. And I had the opportunity to thank him for working together on important issues such as the United Nations Security Council resolution.

The vote today in the United Nations Security Council was a great victory for the Iraqi people. The international community showed that they stand side by side with the Iraqi people. The U.N. Security Council resolution supports the interim government, supports free elections, and supports the multinational force. America supports strongly the idea of a free society in the midst of hatred and intolerance, and I appreciate your help, Vladimir, on getting that Security Council resolution through today.

And it is my pleasure to continue to work with you as we make sure our relations are as close as they possibly can be.

President Putin. First of all, I would like to thank the U.S. President for having invited me to such a wonderful place. Indeed, we had a very thorough discussion which pertained to virtually the entire spectrum of the U.S.-Russia relationship.

I have congratulated the U.S. President with the positive change currently underway with the U.S. economy, which has to be acknowledged as his merit. And this happens with the background of the unreasonable growth for costs and pricing for the energy resources. We're all interested in these positive changes, because in the contemporary world of today, when we live, it is important for all of us that the U.S. economy improves, for the entire world—for Russia included.

I'd like to point out the fact that our relationship has been developing all across the board, including such sensitive areas as the military cooperation.

Now, as regards the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution, without any exaggeration I would state that it is a major step forward. And I hope I will express the view which is held by all members of the Security Council that, indeed, we have witnessed a very constructive dialog which was in progress over the past few days in this area. And this is not about passing a new document in the Security Council regarding Iraq. This is about a quality change in the status in Iraq and with regards to the presence of the military troops there. This

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,

broaden, and extend this economic expansion.

Trade liberalization is key to boosting global prosperity. It is one of the most effective ways to generate economic growth, and represents great potential for development and raising living standards.

We are committed to the multilateral trading system as the best means of achieving greater and effective trade liberalization and stronger global trade rules. The WTO has played a key role in driving global growth, and must continue to do so. The G–8 is committed to expanding economic growth, development, and opportunity by achieving ambitious results in the global trade negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) of the WTO. We are encouraged by the reinvigoration of the negotiations in recent weeks. Working in cooperation with other WTO members, we are determined to move expeditiously before the end of July to complete the frameworks on key issues that will put these far-reaching negotiations on track toward a rapid and successful conclusion. We call on all WTO members to work constructively and swiftly so we can meet our shared commitment to the DDA.

Our most pressing task is to focus on the core issues in the negotiations, which are drivers of economic development and growth: substantially reducing trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and barriers to access to markets; opening markets more widely to trade in goods; expanding opportunities for trade in services; overhauling and improving customs rules and other relevant procedures to facilitate trade; and advancing the development of all countries, especially the poorest, within the WTO system. A consensus appears to be emerging on a way forward for these issues. We must ensure that we maintain a high and consistent level of ambition in all areas, while bearing in mind all members' sensitivities.

In agriculture, we are on the verge of an historic opportunity to meet our objectives established at Doha for fundamental agricultural reform encompassing strengthened rules and specific commitments on support and protection in order to correct and prevent restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets. The next step is to secure the framework, by July, for these comprehensive negotiations on all forms of export competition, domestic support and market access. All three pillars of the agriculture negotiations must be treated with equal ambition. Cotton, a matter of primary concern to our African partners, can best be addressed ambitiously as part of the agricultural negotiations, while at the same time working on development-related issues with the international financial institutions.

Movement on agriculture will help generate progress in other core issues of the DDA, including agreement to launch negotiations on trade facilitation, as well as continuing to liberalize trade in manufactures and services, and strengthening WTO rules. In addition to expanding trade between developed and developing countries, it is particularly important that the DDA encourage the expansion of South-South trade. Open markets and domestic reform go hand in hand, offering the best means to further integrate developing countries into the global economy. We must ensure that as we look forward, the poorest are not left behind, but that they too develop the capacity to participate in the global trading system. We recognize that different countries will need to move at different speeds towards this aim.

The progressive integration by developing countries of trade into their development policies and poverty reduction strategies is crucial for their integration in the global economy, and will increase the benefits they derive from the multilateral trading system. We call on developing countries to further increase their efforts in this regard, and pledge to provide strong support in the form of technical assistance to build trading capacity.

We are determined to seize this moment of strategic economic opportunity. Therefore, we direct our ministers and call on all WTO members to finalize the frameworks by July to put the WTO negotiations back on track so that we can expeditiously complete the Doha Development Agenda.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France at Sea Island

June 10, 2004

President Bush. It's good to have yet another discussion with Jacques Chirac. We had a wonderful visit in Paris. And again, I want to thank you for your hospitality. The food was superb, the hospitality warm——

President Chirac. Here, also.

President Bush. ——and our discussions were meaningful.

We continued our discussions about world poverty and world peace. Of course, we talked about Iraq. We had our differences in the past. But we're friends, and friends are able to discuss the future. And our hope is for peace and freedom around the world.

We consulted on some NATO—we're partners in NATO. We talked about a lot of issues, and one of the issues that we talked about was NATO and whether or not there is a continued role in Iraq for NATO. I assured the President we will continue to consult closely. The point is, is that we understand that the Iraqi people need help to defend themselves, to rebuild their country, and most importantly, to hold elections.

And I appreciate the chance to visit with Jacques.

President Chirac. Can I first of all say, as I said yesterday, tell President Bush our gratitude and our feelings of gratitude and our feelings of gratitude of the French people as a whole, in the context of the D-day celebrations. D-day was something that was terribly important for all the French people, and once again I'd like to thank the President for having made the trip and having heard, himself, the French people speak their words of thanks and gratitude and friendship. It was very moving for us.

And I also wanted to come and congratulate him for the way in which the G–8 was organized and conducted. It is a success.

We had an opportunity during the summit to discuss a number of issues. We've just reviewed some with our colleagues from the Middle East yesterday; we'll be doing so with our colleagues from Africa today. And this gave us an opportunity of reviewing the major areas of concerns for today's world, to better understand each other and also to prove our efforts for peace, development, and human rights.

And as I said, I'd like to thank once again the President for the hospitality here. The President was kind enough to mention French cuisine, but I can tell you that over the last few days, this cuisine here in America was certainly on a par with French cuisine, and I ask the President to convey my thanks to the chef.

President Bush. He particularly liked the cheeseburger he had yesterday. [*Laughter*]

President Chirac. It was excellent. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. at Dunbar House. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

G–8 Statement on Sudan

June 10, 2004

We, the Leaders of the G–8, warmly welcome the May 26 signing by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of protocols on Power Sharing, Abyei, and on the Two Areas (of Southern Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains). We urge the parties to reach a final and comprehensive agreement which includes a timetable and security arrangements as quickly as possible. We hope that this agreement and its faithful implementation will end one of the world's most painful conflicts and begin a new era of Sudanese peace and prosperity.

We also wish to express our grave concern over the humanitarian, human rights, and political crisis in Darfur. We welcome the N'djamena ceasefire agreement of April 8, and the announcement on May 20 by the Government of Sudan that restrictions on humanitarian access will be eased. However, there are continuing reports of gross violations of human rights, many with an ethnic dimension. We call on all parties to the conflict to immediately and fully respect the ceasefire, allow unimpeded humanitarian access to all those in need, and create the conditions for the displaced to return safely to

their homes. We call especially on the Sudanese government to disarm immediately the "Janjaweed" and other armed groups which are responsible for massive human rights violations in Darfur. We call on the conflict parties to address the roots of the Darfur conflict and to seek a political solution.

We support the African Union as it assumes the leading role in the monitoring mission which is now being sent to the Darfur region to supervise the cease-fire agreement.

We pledge our countries' assistance in ending the conflicts in Sudan and in providing humanitarian aid to those in need. We call on all parties to the conflicts in Sudan to commit themselves to respecting the right of all Sudanese to live in peace and dignity.

We look to the United Nations to lead the international effort to avert a major disaster and will work together to achieve this end.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

G–8 Statement: Gaza Withdrawal and the Road Ahead to Middle East Peace

June 10, 2004

The G–8 welcomes the prospect of Israeli withdrawal from all Gaza settlements and from parts of the West Bank, following the Israeli Cabinet decision to endorse Prime Minister Sharon's initiative. The G–8 looks forward to the implementation of this decision in 2005, recalling the Quartet statement of 4 May that it "welcomes and encourages such a step, which should provide a rare moment of opportunity in the search for peace in the Middle East." The G–8 hopes that this disengagement initiative will stimulate progress towards peace in the region, the realization of Palestinian national aspirations and the achievement of our common objective of two states, Israel and a viable, democratic, sovereign and contiguous Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

The G–8 views the Quartet Roadmap as the way forward towards a comprehensive settlement and calls on all parties to abide by their obligations under the Roadmap. The G–8 countries will join with others in the international community, led by the Quartet, to restore momentum on the Roadmap, to enhance humanitarian and economic conditions among the Palestinian people and to build democratic, transparent and accountable Palestinian institutions. We will also work to help ensure security and stability in Gaza and the areas of the West Bank from which Israel withdraws. We call on both sides to end all acts of violence.

In furtherance of these goals, the G–8 calls upon the Quartet to meet in the region before the end of this month, engage with Israeli and Palestinian representatives and set out its plans for taking forward in practical terms its declaration of May 4.

We support and commend all efforts, including those by Egypt, to resolve critical security issues relating to Gaza, and urge that this important work continue. We urge and support the rebuilding and refocusing of Palestinian security services in accordance with the Roadmap, so that they enforce the rule of law, mount effective operations against all forms of terrorism, and report to an empowered Interior Minister and Prime Minister.

We believe the important work of the Local Aid Coordinating Committee to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank must continue. We suggest that preparations should begin now for a meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee with the aim of revitalizing the Palestinian economy. We welcome and encourage international support for the World Bank-established Trust Fund as an accountable and transparent mechanism for receipt of international assistance. We also welcome plans of the Palestinian Authority to hold municipal elections beginning at the end of the summer, and believe that the Task Force on Palestinian Reform should meet soon to assist in preparations to assure that these and subsequent elections will be fair and transparent, and serve as the building block of democratic reform.

The G–8 welcomes the international conference on UNRWA in Geneva and supports close coordination between all groups involved in international assistance.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

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.

June 5

In the morning, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Rome, Italy, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then went to the Villa Madama.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Paris, France.

In the evening, at the Elysee Palace, the President had a working dinner with President Jacques Chirac of France.

June 6

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

Later in the morning, at the Normandy American Cemetery, the President participated in an interview with Tom Brokaw of NBC News. The President and Mrs. Bush then greeted President Jacques Chirac of France and Mrs. Chirac. Later, the two Presidents participated in a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-day.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Caen, France, where, in the Caen Town Hall, they participated in a lunch with multinational leaders. Later, they traveled to Arromanches, France, where they attended a multinational ceremony to commemorate D-day.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Sea Island, GA.

June 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, he participated in a Group of Eight (G–8) Summit briefing and toured the Summit meeting facilities.

In the afternoon, on Sea Island Drive, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a tree planting ceremony.

In the evening, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a reception for G–8 Summit organizers and community leaders.

June 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at Dunbar House, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. Later, also at Dunbar House, he participated in separate meetings with Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

In the evening, at McGuirk House, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a dinner for G–8 leaders and their spouses.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles Graves Untermeyer to be Ambassador to Qatar.

The President announced his intention to nominate William T. Monroe to be Ambassador to Bahrain.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on May 12–19.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and landslides on May 27 and continuing.

June 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at Dunbar House, he had a breakfast meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq, the situations in Iraq and the Middle East, the upcoming NATO Summit, and other issues. He then participated in G–8 Summit meetings at the Sea Island Beach Complex.

In the afternoon, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, the President participated in a photo opportunity and outreach lunch with greater Middle East leaders. Later, he participated in photo opportunities and meetings with G–8 leaders and leaders of guest countries.

Later in the afternoon, at Dunbar House, the President met with President Ghazi Ujayl al-Yawr of the new Iraqi interim government. Later, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, he participated in G–8 Summit meetings.

In the evening, at Goizueta House, the President participated in photo opportunities with G–8 leaders. Later, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, he participated in a working dinner with G–8 leaders.

June 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at Dunbar House, he met separately with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy and President Jacques Chirac of France. Later, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, he participated in G–8 Summit meetings and photo opportunities with G–8 leaders and African leaders.

In the afternoon, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, the President participated in an outreach lunch with African leaders.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Savannah, GA, where he held a press conference at the International Media Center. Later, he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

Later in the evening, in the Rotunda at the U.S. Capitol, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the public viewing of President Ronald Reagan who lay in state until his funeral on June 11. Later, they visited with Nancy Reagan, widow of President Reagan, at Blair House.

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 June 8

Kenneth Francis Hackett,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of 3 years (new position).

Luis Luna,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Morris X. Winn.

Douglas L. McElhaney,
of Florida, 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Charles Graves Untermeyer,
of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Qatar.

Christine Todd Whitman,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of 3 years (new position).

Aldona Wos,
of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

William T. Monroe,
of Virginia, 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 Kingdom of Bahrain.

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 June 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on the proposed U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq

Released June 6

Statement by the Press Secretary: Israeli Cabinet Decision Approving the Prime Minister's Disengagement Plan

Released June 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser for Communications Jim Wilkinson and G–8 Summit Planning Organization Director of Communications Barry Bennett on the G–8 Summit

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the G–8 Summit

Released June 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser for Communications Jim Wilkinson and G–8 Summit Planning Organization Director of Communications Barry Bennett on the G–8 Summit

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to West Virginia

Released June 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser for Communications Jim Wilkinson and G–8 Summit Planning Organization Director of Communications Barry Bennett on the G–8 Summit

Text: G–8 Action Plan: Applying the Power of Entrepreneurship to the Eradication of Poverty

Fact sheet: Applying the Power of Entrepreneurship to the Eradication of Poverty

Text: Partnership for Progress and a Common Future With the Region of the Broader Middle East and North Africa

Text: G–8 Plan of Support for Reform

Fact sheet: Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative

Fact sheet: U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA)

Fact sheet: U.S. Expands Digital Freedom Initiative to Jordan

Text: G–8 Action Plan on Nonproliferation

Fact sheet: G–8 Action Plan on Nonproliferation

Text: G–8 Secure and Facilitated International Travel Initiative (SAFTI)

Fact sheet: G–8 Secure and Facilitated International Travel Initiative (SAFTI)

Fact sheet: Accomplishments at the G–8 Summit: Day One

Released June 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser for Communications Jim Wilkinson, G–8 Summit Planning Organization Director of Communications Barry Bennett, and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony S. Fauci on the G–8 Summit

Text: G–8 Action Plan: Expanding Global Capability for Peace Support Operations

Fact sheet: G–8 Action Plan: Expanding Global Capability for Peace Support Operations

Text: Fighting Corruption and Improving Transparency

Fact sheet: Fighting Corruption and Improving Transparency

Text: Compact To Promote Transparency and Combat Corruption: A New Partnership Between the G–8 and Georgia

Text: Compact To Promote Transparency and Combat Corruption: A New Partnership Between the G–8 and Nigeria

Text: Compact To Promote Transparency and Combat Corruption: A New Partnership Between the G–8 and Nicaragua

Text: Compact To Promote Transparency and Combat Corruption: A New Partnership Between the G–8 and Peru

Text: G–8 Action To Endorse and Establish a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise

Fact sheet: Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise

Text: Ending the Cycle of Famine in the Horn of Africa, Raising Agricultural Productivity, and Promoting Rural Development in Food Insecure Countries

Fact sheet: Ending Famine in the Horn of Africa

Text: Debt Sustainability for the Poorest

Text: G–8 Commitment To Help Stop Polio Forever

Fact sheet: Commitment To Eradicate Polio

Text: Science and Technology for Sustainable Development: "3R" Action Plan and Progress on Implementation

Fact sheet: G–8 Leaders' Trade Statement

Fact sheet: Accomplishments at the G–8 Summit: Day Two

Text: Chair's Summary

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.