

or send their children to any school they choose.

Speaking about organizations that work, I appreciate the Community College of Allegheny County for, one, lending us the facility, and two, providing an education that is affordable and flexible and market-driven. I want to thank Paul Whitehead and Brian Johnson for being good hosts.

The community college system is a vital part of making sure people are able to gain the skills necessary to fill the jobs of the 21st century. Community colleges are able to adjust their curriculum to the needs of the local employer base. And if somebody needs nurses, they come to a community college system and help—they help design a curriculum so we can train nurses. They need computer technology people. I mean, the community college system is vital and important.

Melissa happens to be a board [member] * of this community college system. And this administration will continue to support our community colleges to make sure that people have the skills necessary to fill the jobs which are being created in America, the jobs of the 21st century. So thank you for letting us come here today.

And now it's my honor to introduce Laura. [Laughter] She and I share a passion that we've got to make sure that the great strength of our country—that is, the hearts and souls of our citizens—are directed in such a way that every child can be saved. That's what we want, and we're worried. We're worried about gangs. We're worried about drugs. We're worried about bad choices. But we also know that if we can, in our small way, encourage people to put their arm around somebody and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you," if we can encourage people to step forward and to volunteer their time and talent and compassion, this country can be a better place. So one of the big initiatives that she is—will be leading on behalf of my administration and the country is how to utilize the assets at our disposal to make sure that every single child, every single person has a bright and hopeful future.

* White House correction.

You know, de Tocqueville, years ago, wrote about America. In 1832, he wrote about the great capacity of our country to have people of—who cared about their country to be able to associate in a voluntary way to kind of transcend individualism. In other words, what he was really saying is, America is a unique place where people come together to serve a cause greater than themselves. And I think the patriotism of the 21st century is—can be found when somebody goes to the center we just came at and volunteer his or her time, and says to a child, "I love you. What can I do to help you to realize your dream?" And Laura's here to talk about that on behalf of our country.

I'm proud of her as the First Lady. I love her dearly as a wife. She's a fabulous mother. Laura Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:58 p.m. at the Community College of Allegheny County—Allegheny Campus. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Joan Coultas, CDP, provincial director, Sisters of Divine Providence, Pittsburgh, PA; Bishop Donald Wuerl of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA; Paul V. Whitehead, chair, board of trustees, Community College of Allegheny County; and Brian Johnson, senior vice president for community and student services, Community College of Allegheny County, and chief executive officer, Community College of Allegheny County—Allegheny Campus. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons *March 7, 2005*

Thirty-five years ago, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons entered into force. Today, almost all nations are party to the treaty. The NPT represents a key legal barrier to nuclear weapons proliferation and makes a critical contribution to international security.

In May, the parties to the NPT will convene the Seventh Review Conference of the Treaty. In the context of this review, I reaffirm the determination of the United States to carry out its treaty commitments and to work to ensure its continuance in the interest of world peace and security.

NPT parties must take strong action to confront the threat of noncompliance with the NPT in order to preserve and strengthen the treaty's nonproliferation undertakings. We cannot allow rogue states that violate their commitments and defy the international community to undermine the NPT's fundamental role in strengthening international security. We must therefore close the loopholes that allow states to produce nuclear materials that can be used to build bombs under the cover of civilian nuclear programs.

For international norms to be effective, they must be enforced. It is the charge of the International Atomic Energy Agency to uncover banned nuclear activity and to report these violations. The IAEA safeguards system is therefore an important means of detecting and preventing NPT violations. The IAEA must have the tools it needs to do its work, especially universal adherence to the Additional Protocol.

The United States remains firmly committed to its obligations under the NPT. Our record demonstrates this commitment, including the Moscow Treaty concluded in 2002. The United States will continue to play a leading role in strengthening the nonproliferation regime. We have undertaken concrete actions and made several proposals to strengthen the NPT, the IAEA, and the broader nonproliferation regime, including launching the Proliferation Security Initiative.

It is essential in these times of great challenge to international security, particularly when rogue states and terrorists seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction, that the international community work together to confront the dangers of nuclear proliferation. I call upon all states that are party to the treaty to act promptly and effectively to meet the challenges to the NPT and our common security. By doing so, we can ensure that it remains an effective instrument of global security.

Remarks on the War on Terror

March 8, 2005

Thank you all. Please be seated. It is great to be back to this fine university. Many great military leaders of the 20th century, from Dwight Eisenhower to Colin Powell, studied on this campus. And today, the National Defense University is training a new generation of leaders who will serve and defend this Nation in a new century. Americans are grateful for your devotion to duty, and so is your Commander in Chief.

I am honored that two influential and important Members of the United States Congress have joined us. First, Senator Joe Lieberman, strong defender of freedom, thank you for coming, Senator. And the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Congressman Duncan Hunter, proud you're here, Dunc. Thanks for coming. In the midst of what we hope will be the final snow blizzard of 2005—[laughter]—I'm honored you two men slushed here to this event.

I appreciate so very much Lieutenant General Michael Dunn and his wife, Pam, for greeting me and for serving our Nation. I want to thank all the National Defense University students for being here. I appreciate the staff for joining us. I want to thank the members of the diplomatic corps who have come today. It is an honor to see you all again. I want to thank my fellow Americans for caring about the subject of peace, and that's what I'm here to discuss.

We meet at a time of great consequence for the security of our Nation, a time when the defense of freedom requires the advance of freedom, a time with echoes in our history. Twice in six decades, a sudden attack on the United States launched our country into a global conflict and began a period of serious reflection on America's place in the world.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor taught America that unopposed tyranny, even on faraway continents, could draw our country into a struggle for our own survival. And our reflection on that lesson led us to help build