

freedom, human rights and democracy, economic dynamism, sustainable development. And I think we—if we work together, we really can make a difference. And I think it's necessary.

So I'm really looking forward of the new administration also to have a good cooperation between the European Union and the United States.

It was also important what you said about role of multilateral channels, the United Nations, but also, we talked about the NATO. And it is important to make progress on the issues of climate change and energy. We have so many things in common.

So I want to thank you very much for hospitality, the cooperation. You know, there are really close ties between the people of the United States and the Netherlands. And I'm sure that will continue in the—in future. And when we talk about these issue—important issues like human rights, freedom, democracy—they—we have, really, a common responsibility.

I wish you all the best. I presume this will be the last time here in the White House when you're in office. I wish you all the best, and thanks again for the hospitality.

**President Bush.** Thank you, sir. Thank you.

**Prime Minister Balkenende.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

### **Statement on Senate Confirmation of Steven C. Preston as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development**

*June 5, 2008*

I am pleased that the Senate unanimously confirmed Steve Preston to serve as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Steve is a strong leader whose understanding of our financial markets and strong management skills make him highly qualified to serve in this important position. He will aggressively work to ensure that the Department remains focused on its mission of making housing more affordable and helping

Americans keep their homes. Steve is also a consensus-builder who will build on our efforts to work with Congress on responsible legislation addressing our Nation's housing policies.

### **Directive on Biometrics for Identification and Screening To Enhance National Security**

*June 5, 2008*

National Security Presidential Directive/NSPD-59

Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-24

*Subject:* Biometrics for Identification and Screening to Enhance National Security

#### **Purpose**

This directive establishes a framework to ensure that Federal executive departments and agencies (agencies) use mutually compatible methods and procedures in the collection, storage, use, analysis, and sharing of biometric and associated biographic and contextual information of individuals in a lawful and appropriate manner, while respecting their information privacy and other legal rights under United States law.

#### **Scope**

(1) The executive branch has developed an integrated screening capability to protect the Nation against "known and suspected terrorists" (KSTs). The executive branch shall build upon this success, in accordance with this directive, by enhancing its capability to collect, store, use, analyze, and share biometrics to identify and screen KSTs and other persons who may pose a threat to national security.

(2) Existing law determines under what circumstances an individual's biometric and biographic information can be collected. This directive requires agencies to use, in a more coordinated and efficient manner, all biometric information associated with persons who may pose a threat to national security, consistent with applicable law, including those laws relating to privacy and confidentiality of personal data.