

other remarkable events began unfolding: shipyard workers in Gdansk brought down a government; a jailed playwright in Prague touched off a Velvet Revolution; and citizens of Berlin prayed for the end of a wall and then found the strength to tear it down.

In today's struggle, we have again laid out a clear vision of freedom, and it will transform lives in the Middle East and beyond in ways we cannot fully predict. But we can see some of the sources of change. Sixty percent of the Middle East population is under 30 years old, and over time, these young people—surfing the Internet and watching satellite television and studying abroad—will demand that their societies fully join the free world. The women's movement in the region is growing, and over time, this movement will spark reform, as mothers and daughters make clear that it is costly and unwise to keep half the population from fully contributing to the life of a nation. Middle Eastern immigrants here in Europe are seeing the benefits of freedom, and over time, they will insist that the liberty of their adopted homelands also belongs in the lands of their birth. The future of the region is the hands of its people, and those of us who live in free societies must continue to encourage these early stirrings of reform.

And finally, we must go forward with resolve. In the years ahead, there will be periods of difficulty, yet history shows that freedom can endure even the hardest of tests. Picture what the future of Europe must have looked like for leaders meeting here in Paris 60 years ago. Moscow had occupied much of Central and Eastern Europe after World War II. Communist parties had threatened Governments in Italy and here in France. A severe Soviet threat imperiled Greece and Turkey. A Communist coup had toppled the elected Government of Czechoslovakia. Stalin ordered the blockade of Berlin.

Yet in America and in free capitals of Europe, we summoned the resolve to prevail. We launched the Marshall plan and the Berlin Airlift. Then came the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty and the formation of West Germany. Looking back over the decades, we can see that these brave early measures put us on the path to victory in the cold war.

There are moments today when the situation in places like the Middle East can look as daunting as it did in Europe six decades ago. Yet we can have confidence that liberty once again will prevail. We can have confidence because freedom is the longing of every soul, and it is the direction of history. We can have confidence because men and women in the Middle East and beyond are determined to claim their liberty, just as the people of Europe did in the last century.

Near the end of his life, George Marshall made a final trip to Europe. He came not for a military meeting or a diplomatic summit, but to accept the Nobel Peace Prize. In his address, Marshall offered a bold prediction: "Tyranny inevitably must retire before the tremendous moral strength of the gospel of freedom." Sixty years ago, the faith in liberty helped the gospel of freedom ring out in nations devastated by war. Today, freedom rings out across this continent. And one day, freedom will ring out across the world.

Thank you for having me. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:36 p.m. at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Angel Gurría of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and his wife, Lulu Quintana; Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy; Prime Minister Gordon Brown and former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom; Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; President Nicolas Sarkozy of France; and former President Václav Havel of the Czech Republic.

Statement on the Death of

Tim Russert

June 13, 2008

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Tim Russert. Those of us who knew and worked with Tim, his many friends, and the millions of Americans who loyally followed his career on the air will all miss him.

As the longest serving host of the longest running program in the history of television, he was an institution in both news and politics for more than two decades. Tim was a tough and hard-working newsman. He was always well-informed and thorough in his

interviews, and he was as gregarious off the set as he was prepared on it.

Most important, Tim was a proud son and father, and Laura and I offer our deepest sympathies to his wife, Maureen, his son, Luke, and the entire Russert family. We will keep them in our prayers.

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 7

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 8

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

June 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Ljubljana Joze Pucnik Airport, Slovenia, arriving in the evening. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with Gerard Baker and Tom Baldwin of the Times.

Later in the evening, upon arrival at Ljubljana Joze Pucnik Airport, the President participated in a greeting with Prime Minister Janez Jansa of Slovenia. He then traveled to the Kokra Hotel in Kranj, Slovenia.

The President declared a major disaster in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on June 6 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Bruce Donley to be Secretary of the Air Force and designate him as Acting Secretary of the Air Force.

June 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Brdo

Castle, where he met separately with President Danilo Turk and Prime Minister Janez Jansa of Slovenia. He then returned to the Kokra Hotel, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. He then returned to Brdo Castle, where he participated in a photo opportunity and met with European Union leaders. Later, he traveled to the Brdo Congress Centre, where, in the Splendens Room, he participated in the EU-U.S. summit.

In the afternoon, in the Glass Hall at the Brdo Congress Centre, the President participated in the EU-U.S. summit working lunch. Later, he returned to Brdo Castle, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush. Then, on the South Lawn of Brdo Castle, they viewed the Lipizzaner Horse Exhibition.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Ljubljana Joze Pucnik Airport, where they, Prime Minister Jansa, and his fiancée, Urška Bacovnik, participated in photo opportunities and met with Slovenian military personnel. They then traveled to Meseberg, Germany, arriving in the evening.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Schloss Meseberg, where they had dinner with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and her husband, Joachim Sauer.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederick S. Celec to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Melvin Jones to be Ambassador to Guyana.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships: Dionel M. Aviles; Ari Bousbib; Amy Woods Brinkley; Deirdre P. Connelly; Louis DeJoy; George M. Drysdale; John H. Frey; Trey Grayson; Frederick D. Gregory; Mark F. Hearne II; Thomas C. Leppert; Catherine J. Martin; Roger B. Porter; Amy Tuck; and Dennis Zeleny.

The President announced his intention to appoint Brig. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz as