

capabilities, especially in the field of counterterrorism, through training and equipment.

- Reconvene the bilateral Defense Consultative Group this fall with a renewed focus on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism.
- Renew cooperative efforts to root out extremism along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, including the North-West Frontier Province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and Balochistan.
- Expand cooperation between the United States and the Pakistani Frontier Corps and other Pakistani security forces on the front lines in the fight against violent extremism.
- Focus U.S. security assistance on efforts to enhance the counterterrorism capabilities of Pakistan's military forces.

Work Together to Enhance Regional Peace, Security, and Stability

- Strengthen the Tripartite Commission between the International Security Assistance Force, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- Support the efforts of Pakistan and Afghanistan to hold the next joint jirga this fall.
- Hold the next Regional Economic Cooperation Conference in Islamabad this fall.
- Encourage the Pakistan-India Composite Dialogue process to reduce tensions, build trust, and resolve all outstanding issues.

Prime Minister Gilani thanked President Bush and the people of the United States for the hospitality accorded to him, Mrs. Gilani, and the members of the Prime Ministerial delegation during their stay in the United States.

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

Statement on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact

July 28, 2008

I congratulate the Governors and legislatures of the eight States that border the Great Lakes on their conclusion of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. Made in the spirit of cooperative conservation, this compact is the result of many years of close coordination and consensus building that resulted in the compact's approval by the eight Great Lakes States and two Canadian Provinces.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure. They were vital to the exploration of this continent and have long supported commerce. Today, more than 33 million people live in the States and Provinces bordering the lakes, and the lakes provide an efficient means to transport food and other commodities destined for global markets. The Great Lakes provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities and serve as a source of drinking water for more than 30 million people.

The compact will ensure sustainable use and responsible management of waters from the Great Lakes Basin and preserve the Great Lakes for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

I strongly urge Congress to provide rapid approval of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Budget Amendment for the Department of the Interior

July 28, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendment to the FY 2009 Budget for the Department of the Interior. Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2009 Budget would not be affected by this amendment.