

I also am looking forward to continuing our discussions on issues like Zimbabwe or Darfur. These are issues that the President is most familiar with. It's the President—issues in which he has got good judgment about how to proceed on these matters.

And so, Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you here to the Oval Office.

President Kikwete. Thank you. Well, thank you, President. First, I thank you for the invitation. It's an honor for me; it's an honor for Tanzania; it's an honor for Africa. Well, I came here to say thank you very much on behalf of the people of Africa, on behalf of the people of Tanzania. You have done so much for Africa—

President Bush. Thank you.

President Kikwete. —so much for Tanzania. When you compare, no U.S. President has done so much for Africa and for Tanzania as you have done.

AGOA has been extended. It extends the horizons of the possibilities of economic growth in Africa. PEPFAR is helping us tackle the HIV/AIDS scourge. Many lives—many, many children now who were—who would have been orphaned are no longer orphaned because of that. PMI has helped us so much in the fight against malaria. Many innocent lives of children—women and children—are being saved. And Tanzania is one of those examples of the great successes of PMI.

Malaria in Zanzibar has almost been—is being eliminated now. In the past, there used to be 50 percent cases being reported in hospital; now it's only 1 percent that's been reported in hospital, thanks to PMI.

And there are a number—of course, our biggest challenge now in Zanzibar is how to sustain that success, because only 20 miles on the mainland, in Dar es Salaam, malaria is still there. So if people go to Zanzibar with malaria, then the problem is—our biggest challenge is how to sustain it. And we are working together with the PMI and CDC on how to respond to this kind of situations.

Of course, with the MCA, again, the support you've given us to infrastructure development in the country, it's again—it helps us build the capacity, to tackle poverty and inland development in the country.

So all that I can say really—I came here to say thank you so much for the support. Well of course, you saw it yourself when you came home, how the people came in huge numbers—

President Bush. They were.

President Kikwete. —huge numbers. I was even amazed when they poured in the streets. There the issue was really to express their appreciation to you and to the people of the United States for the generous support that you have been extending to our country.

Of course, we discussed the issues on the continent. We again—we thank you for your leadership. We'll continue to work together. Zimbabwe is a common problem. Darfur is a common problem. We are in the frontline. But of course, when those of us who are on the frontline always look toward—look to the rear—[laughter]—to continue to support us. And there has been such extraordinary support of us in the continent.

We continue to work together.

President Bush. Thank you.

President Kikwete. I thank you, President.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on the Selection of Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska as Republican Vice Presidential Candidate

August 29, 2008

Today Senator McCain made an exciting decision in choosing Alaska Governor Sarah Palin to join him on his ticket as the Vice Presidential candidate. Governor Palin is a proven reformer who is a wise steward of taxpayer dollars and champion for accountability in government. Governor Palin's success is due to her dedication to principle and her roll-up-your-sleeves work ethic and serves as a wonderful example of the spirit of America. By selecting a working mother with a track record of getting things done,

Senator McCain has once again demonstrated his commitment to reforming Washington.

I applaud Senator McCain for selecting Governor Palin. This decision is yet another example of why the American people can trust him to make wise decisions and to confidently lead this country.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Message on the Observance of Labor Day

August 29, 2008

I send greetings to all Americans celebrating Labor Day 2008.

In America, all citizens have an opportunity to forge their own paths forward, and their success is limited only by the size of their dreams. From engineering to healthcare and from small businesses to education, the American people are the most industrious, enterprising, and productive in the world. These talented and innovative workers provide for their families and play a vital role in building a more prosperous future for our country. By trusting in the ingenuity and creativity of America's risk-takers and dreamers, our country will remain the most vibrant, hopeful, and dynamic around the globe.

Each year on Labor Day, we honor the dedicated men and women of our Nation's workforce. Their determined efforts add to the strength and vitality of our country and build a brighter future for America.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

George W. Bush

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this message. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan

August 29, 2008

I send greetings to Muslims observing Ramadan in America and around the globe.

The holy month of Ramadan is a special time of prayer, fasting, and service. For Muslims, these days commemorate the revelation of God's word to the prophet Muhammad in the form of the Qur'an.

I thank the men and women of the Muslim community for their contributions to America. Your love of family, and gratitude to God have strengthened the moral fabric of our country. Our Nation is stronger and more hopeful because of the generosity, talents, and compassion of our Muslim citizens.

Laura and I send our best wishes. Ramadan Mubarak.

George W. Bush

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

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.

August 23

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

August 24

The President declared a major disaster in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Fay beginning on August 18 and continuing.

August 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President hosted the 100 Degree Club run.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Governor Charlie Crist of Florida to discuss damage and recovery efforts in the areas struck by Tropical Storm Fay.