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Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

Presidential Daily Diary Backup

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09/15/2006

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The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Schedule	The Daily Diary of President George W. Bush [page 2, 4-5,]	3	09/15/2006	P3/b3; P6/b6;
002	Schedule	[The Daily Diary of President George W. Bush, page 2, 4-6,]	4	09/15/2006	P3/b3; P6/b6;
003	List	Oval Office Log	2	09/15/2006	P3/b3; P6/b6;
004	Schedule	Revised Private Schedule of the President	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;
005	Schedule	The Schedule of Vice President Cheney [page 1-2]	2	09/15/2006	P6/b6;
006	Schedule	Schedule of Mrs. Bush in Washington, DC	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;
007	List	NSC Meeting	1	09/15/2006	P3/b3;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary Backup

FOLDER TITLE:

09/15/2006

FRC ID:

13590

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
008	Schedule	[Schedule]	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;
009	Briefing	Meeting with the Secretary of the Interior	2	09/15/2006	P5;
010	Email	Press Schedule of the Vice President for September 15, 2006 - To: Ellen McCathran - From: White House Press Releases	3	09/13/2006	P6/b6;
011	Database Printout	WAVES Operation Center - Appointment: U42956	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;
012	Database Printout	WAVES Operation Center - Appointment: U42566	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;
013	Database Printout	WAVES Operation Center - Appointment: U43088	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;
014	Database Printout	WAVES Operation Center - Appointment: U43214	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary Backup

FOLDER TITLE:

09/15/2006

FRC ID:

13590

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
015	Database Printout	WAVES Operation Center - Appointment: U43224	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary Backup

FOLDER TITLE:

09/15/2006

FRC ID:

13590

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



September 15, 2006
6:50 AM FRIDAY

ID	START	END		DESCRIPTION
75256	6:50 AM			The President went to the South Grounds of the White House.
75257	6:53 AM			The President went to the Oval Office.
75258				The President met with:
	6:55 AM	7:54 AM		Daniel J. Bartlett, Counselor
	6:56 AM	7:54 AM		Joshua B. Bolten (in/out), Assistant and Chief of Staff
	7:11 AM	7:34 AM		Joel D. Kaplan, Assistant and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
	7:19 AM	7:54 AM		Stephen J. Hadley, Assistant for National Security Affairs
74813	7:07 AM	7:10 AM	R	The President talked with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.
74814	7:21 AM	7:32 AM	P	The President talked with Senator William H. "Bill" Frist (R-Tennessee).
75259	7:54 AM			The President went to the outer office.
75260	7:54 AM			The President went to the Cabinet Room.
75261	7:54 AM	7:59 AM		The President participated in a taping for a Radio Address to the Nation on the War on Terror. The President's remarks will be broadcast on September 16th over the major radio networks and their affiliates.
75262	7:59 AM			The President returned to the outer office.
75263	7:59 AM			The President and Mr. Bolten returned to the Oval Office.
75264				The President met with:
	7:59 AM	8:05 AM		Mr. Bolten
	8:00 AM	8:05 AM		Mr. Hadley
75265	8:05 AM			The President went to the Roosevelt Room. He was accompanied by:
				Mr. Bolten
				Mr. Hadley
75266	8:05 AM	8:24 AM		The President met for an intelligence briefing with:
				Richard B. Cheney, Vice President (via SVTS from Beverly

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



September 15, 2006
8:05 AM FRIDAY

ID	START	END	DESCRIPTION
			Hills, California)
			(b)(3) 50 USC 3507
			Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Burgess Junior, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Office of the Director of National Intelligence Mr. Bolten Mr. Hadley
75267	8:24 AM		The President returned to the Oval Office.
75268	8:26 AM	8:30 AM	The President met with Mr. Hadley.
75269	8:30 AM		The President and Mr. Hadley returned to the Roosevelt Room.
75270	8:30 AM	9:39 AM	The President participated in a National Security Council (NSC) meeting. For a list of attendees, see <u>APPENDIX "A."</u>
75271	9:39 AM		The President returned to the Oval Office. He was accompanied by: Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State Gen. Michael V. Hayden, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Mr. Bolten Mr. Hadley
75272	9:39 AM	9:57 AM	The President met with: Secretary Rice
	9:39 AM	9:57 AM	Gen. Hayden
	9:39 AM	9:59 AM	Mr. Bolten
	9:39 AM	10:00 AM	Mr. Hadley
	9:39 AM	9:59 AM	Mr. Bartlett
75273	10:02 AM	10:35 AM	The President met with: Mr. Bolten
	10:02 AM	10:35 AM	Joel D. Kaplan, Assistant and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
	10:03 AM	10:35 AM	Dirk A. Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior
75274	10:35 AM	10:59 AM	The President met with: Mr. Bolten

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



September 15, 2006
10:35 AM FRIDAY

ID	START	END	DESCRIPTION
	10:35 AM	10:59 AM	Mr. Kaplan
	10:36 AM	10:59 AM	Mr. Bartlett
	10:36 AM	10:59 AM	Robert A. "Tony" Snow, Assistant and Press Secretary
	10:36 AM	10:59 AM	Dana M. Perino, Deputy Assistant and Deputy Press Secretary
	10:37 AM	10:37 AM	Raul F. Yanes, Assistant and Staff Secretary
	10:38 AM	10:59 AM	Kevin F. Sullivan, Assistant for Communications
	10:42 AM	10:59 AM	Jack Dyer "J.D." Crouch II, Assistant and Deputy National Security Advisor
75275			The President met with:
	11:00 AM	11:14 AM	Mr. Bartlett (in/out)
	11:00 AM	11:14 AM	Mr. Snow (in/out)
	11:03 AM	11:14 AM	Mr. Hadley
	11:05 AM	11:14 AM	Mr. Bolten
	11:05 AM	11:07 AM	Mr. Yanes
	11:11 AM	11:14 AM	Ms. Perino
75276			
	11:15 AM		The President went to the Rose Garden.
75277			
	11:15 AM	12:13 PM	The President participated in a News Conference.
			Members of Press in/out
75278			
	12:13 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.
75279			
	12:14 PM	12:17 PM	The President met with:
			Mr. Bolten
			Mr. Bartlett
			Mr. Snow
			Mr. Hadley
			Mr. Sullivan
			Ms. Perino
75280			
	12:17 PM		The Presidential party went to the outer office.
75281			
			The President met with:
	12:17 PM	12:19 PM	Mr. Bolten
	12:17 PM	12:18 PM	Mr. Bartlett
	12:17 PM	12:18 PM	Mr. Snow
	12:17 PM	12:19 PM	Mr. Hadley
	12:17 PM	12:18 PM	Mr. Sullivan

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



September 15, 2006
12:20 PM FRIDAY

ID	START	END	DESCRIPTION
	12:17 PM	12:18 PM	Ms. Perino
75282			
75283			
75284			
75285			
75286			
	12:37 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.
75287	12:37 PM		The President went to the Colonnade.
75288	12:39 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.
75289			The President met for a pre-briefing with:
	12:39 PM	12:44 PM	Mr. Bartlett
	12:39 PM	12:44 PM	Mr. Snow
	12:42 PM	12:44 PM	Mr. Bolten
75290	12:44 PM	2:26 PM	The President met with radio talk show hosts to discuss the progress of the Global War on Terror. For a list of attendees, see <u>APPENDIX "B."</u>
75291	2:26 PM	2:27 PM	The President met with: Mr. Bartlett Mr. Snow
75292			
75293	2:56 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.
75294	2:56 PM	3:41 PM	The President met for a speechwriting meeting with: Mr. Bolten Mr. Hadley Mr. Bartlett Mr. Sullivan Mr. Yanes William J. McGurn, Assistant for Speechwriting

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



September 15, 2006
2:56 PM FRIDAY

ID	START	END	DESCRIPTION
			Marc A. Thiessen, Deputy Assistant and Deputy Director of Speechwriter William A. "Bill" Burck, Deputy Assistant and Deputy Staff Secretary Christopher G. Michel, Special Assistant for Speechwriting
75295	3:41 PM	3:43 PM	The President met with: Mr. Bolten Mr. Hadley Mr. Bartlett
75296	3:43 PM		The President returned to the outer office.
75297	3:43 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.
75298	3:43 PM	4:00 PM	The President met with: Mr. Bolten
	3:54 PM	3:58 PM	Mr. Crouch
75299	4:00 PM		The President and Mr. Bolten returned to the outer office.
75300	4:00 PM	4:01 PM	The President met with Mr. Bolten.
75301	(b)(6)		
74815	4:25 PM	4:34 PM	P The President talked with Mr. Bartlett.

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



APPENDICES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL DIARY OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



NSC MEETING

September 15, 2006

Roosevelt Room

Event 75270

Appendix "A"

Attendance confirmed by NSC.

ATTENDEES:

The President

Richard B. Cheney, Vice President (via SVTS from Beverly Hills, California)

John P. Hannah, Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs

Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State

David M. Satterfield, Deputy Chief of Mission, Baghdad, Iraq

Zalmay M. Khalilzad, Ambassador of the U.S. to Iraq (via SVTS)

Robert M. Kimmitt, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury

Vickie Alvo, Treasury

Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense (via SVTS)

Eric S. Edelman, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Gen. John P. Abizaid, Commander, U.S. Central Command (via SVTS)

Lt. Gen. George W. Casey Junior, Commander, Multinational Force - Iraq (via SVTS)

Dan Spekard, (via SVTS w/Gen. Casey)

Joshua B. Bolten, Assistant and Chief of Staff

Joel D. Kaplan, Assistant and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



NSC MEETING

September 15, 2006
Roosevelt Room

Event 75270

Appendix "A"

Page 2

Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Burgess Junior, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Daniel J. Bartlett, Counselor

Harriet E. Miers, Counsel

Stephen J. Hadley, Assistant for National Security Affairs

Jack Dyer "J.D." Crouch II, Assistant and Deputy National Security Advisor

Gen. Michael V. Hayden, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS)

Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate, The Pentagon

Meghan L. O'Sullivan, Special Assistant and Deputy National Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



INTERVIEW WITH RADIO HOSTS

September 15, 2006
Oval Office

Event 75290

Appendix "B"

Attendance confirmed by
David Sherzer.

ATTENDEES:

The President

Sean Hannity, host, "The Sean Hannity Show"

Laura Ingraham, host, "The Laura Ingraham Show"

Mike Gallagher, host, "The Mike Gallagher Show"

Michael Medved, host, "The Michael Medved Show"

Neal Boortz, host, "The Neal Boortz Show"

Mr. Bolten

Mr. Bartlett

Mr. Snow

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

6:50 a.m. FRIDAY

75256
6:50 The President went to the South Grounds of
the White House.

75257
6:53 The President went to the Oval Office.

75258
The President met with:
6:55 7:54 Daniel J. Bartlett, Counselor
6:56 7:54 Joshua B. Bolten (in/out), Assistant and
Chief of Staff
7:11 7:34 Joel D. Kaplan, Assistant and Deputy
Chief of Staff for Policy
7:19 7:54 Stephen J. Hadley, Assistant for
National Security Affairs

74813
7:07 7:10 R The President talked with Secretary of State
Condoleezza Rice.

74814
7:21 7:32 P The President talked with Senator William H.
"Bill" Frist (R-Tennessee).

75259
7:54 The President went to the outer office.

75260
7:54 The President went to the Cabinet Room.

75261
7:54 7:59 The President participated in a taping for a
Radio Address to the Nation on the War on
Terror. The President's remarks will be
broadcast on September 16th over the major
radio networks and their affiliates.

75262
7:59 The President returned to the outer office.

75263
7:59 The President and Mr. Bolten returned to the
Oval Office.

75264

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

7:59 a.m. FRIDAY

The President met with:

7:59 8:05
8:00 8:05

Mr. Bolten
Mr. Hadley

75265

8:05

The President went to the Roosevelt Room. He was accompanied by:

Mr. Bolten
Mr. Hadley

75266

8:05 8:24

The President met for an intelligence briefing with:

Richard B. Cheney, Vice President (via
SVTS from Beverly Hills, California)

(b)(3) 50 USC 3507

Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Burgess Jr.,
Principal Deputy Director of National
Intelligence, Office of the Director of
National Intelligence
Mr. Bolten
Mr. Hadley

75267

8:24

The President returned to the Oval Office.

75268

8:26 8:30

The President met with Mr. Hadley.

75269

8:30

The President and Mr. Hadley returned to the Roosevelt Room.

75270

8:30 9:39

The President participated in a National Security Council (NSC) meeting. For a list of attendees, see APPENDIX "A."

75271

9:39

The President returned to the Oval Office.

He was accompanied by:
Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State
Gen. Michael V. Hayden, Director of the
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
Mr. Bolten

continued

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

9:39 a.m. FRIDAY

Mr. Hadley

75272

The President met with:

9:39	9:57	Secretary Rice
9:39	9:57	Gen. Hayden
9:39	9:59	Mr. Bolten
9:39	10:00	Mr. Hadley
9:39	9:59	Mr. Bartlett

75273

The President met with:

10:02	10:35	Mr. Bolten
10:02	10:35	Joel D. Kaplan, Assistant and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
10:03	10:35	Dirk A. Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior

75274

The President met with:

10:35	10:59	Mr. Bolten
10:35	10:59	Mr. Kaplan
10:36	10:59	Mr. Bartlett
10:36	10:59	Robert A. "Tony" Snow, Assistant and Press Secretary
10:36	10:59	Dana M. Perino, Deputy Assistant and Deputy Press Secretary
10:37	10:37	Raul F. Yanes, Assistant and Staff Secretary
10:38	10:59	Kevin F. Sullivan, Assistant for Communications
10:42	10:59	Jack Dyer "J.D." Crouch II, Assistant and Deputy National Security Advisor

75275

The President met with:

11:00	11:14	Mr. Bartlett (in/out)
11:00	11:14	Mr. Snow (in/out)
11:03	11:14	Mr. Hadley
11:05	11:14	Mr. Bolten
11:05	11:07	Mr. Yanes
11:11	11:14	Ms. Perino

75276

11:15

The President went to the Rose Garden.

75277

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

11:15 a.m. FRIDAY

11:15 12:13

The President participated in a News
Conference.
Members of Press in/out

75278

12:13

The President returned to the Oval Office.

75279

12:14 12:17

The President met with:

Mr. Bolten
Mr. Bartlett
Mr. Snow
Mr. Hadley
Mr. Sullivan
Ms. Perino

75280

12:17

The Presidential party went to the outer
office.

75281

12:17 12:19

The President met with:

12:17 12:18

Mr. Bolten

12:17 12:18

Mr. Bartlett

12:17 12:19

Mr. Snow

12:17 12:18

Mr. Hadley

12:17 12:18

Mr. Sullivan

12:17 12:18

Ms. Perino

75282

12:20

The President returned to the Oval Office.

75283

75284

75285

(b)(6)

75286

12:37

The President returned to the Oval Office.

75287

continued

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

12:37 p.m. FRIDAY

12:37 The President went to the Colonnade.

75288 12:39 The President returned to the Oval Office.

75289 The President met for a pre-briefing with:
12:39 12:44 Mr. Bartlett
12:39 12:44 Mr. Snow
12:42 12:44 Mr. Bolten

75290 12:44 2:26 The President met with radio talk show hosts
to discuss the progress of the Global War on
Terror. For a list of attendees, see
APPENDIX "B."

75291 2:26 2:27 The President met with:
Mr. Bartlett
Mr. Snow

75292

(b)(6)

75293 2:56 The President returned to the Oval Office.

75294 2:56 3:41 The President met for a speechwriting meeting
with:
Mr. Bolten
Mr. Hadley
Mr. Bartlett
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Yanes
William J. McGurn, Assistant for
Speechwriting
Marc A. Thiessen, Deputy Assistant and
Deputy Director of Speechwriter
William A. "Bill" Burck, Deputy
Assistant and Deputy Staff Secretary
Christopher G. Michel, Special Assistant
for Speechwriting

75295

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

3:41 p.m. FRIDAY

3:41 3:43

The President met with:

Mr. Bolten
Mr. Hadley
Mr. Bartlett-

75296

3:43

The President returned to the outer office.

75297

3:43

The President returned to the Oval Office.

75298

3:43 4:00

The President met with:

3:54 3:58

Mr. Bolten
Mr. Crouch

75299

4:00

The President and Mr. Bolten returned to the
outer office.

75300

4:00 4:01

The President met with Mr. Bolten.

75301

(b)(6)

74815

4:25 4:34 P

The President talked with Mr. Bartlett.

APPENDICES FOR PRESIDENTIAL DIARY
OF
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

NSC MEETING

September 15, 2006
Roosevelt Room

APPENDIX "A" Page 1

Attendance confirmed by NSC.

ATTENDEES:

The President

Richard B. Cheney, Vice President (via SVTS from Beverly Hills, California)

John P. Hannah, Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs

Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State

David M. Satterfield, Deputy Chief of Mission, Baghdad, Iraq

Zalmay M. Khalilzad, Ambassador of the U.S. to Iraq (via SVTS)

Robert M. Kimmitt, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury

Vickie Alvo, Treasury

Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense (via SVTS)

Eric S. Edelman, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Gen. John P. Abizaid, Commander, U.S. Central Command (via SVTS)

Lt. Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Commander, Multinational Force - Iraq (via SVTS)

Dan Spekard, (via SVTS w/Gen. Casey)

Joshua B. Bolten, Assistant and Chief of Staff

Joel D. Kaplan, Assistant and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Burgess Jr., Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Daniel J. Bartlett, Counselor

Harriet E. Miers, Counsel

Stephen J. Hadley, Assistant for National Security Affairs

Jack Dyer "J.D." Crouch II, Assistant and Deputy National
Security Advisor

Gen. Michael V. Hayden, Director of the Central Intelligence
Agency (CIA)

Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS)

Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy
Directorate, The Pentagon

Meghan L. O'Sullivan, Special Assistant and Deputy National
Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan

INTERVIEW WITH RADIO HOSTS

September 15, 2006
Oval Office

APPENDIX "B"

Attendance confirmed by
David Sherzer.

ATTENDEES:

The President

Sean Hannity, host, "The Sean Hannity Show"

Laura Ingraham, host, "The Laura Ingraham Show"

Mike Gallagher, host, "The Mike Gallagher Show"

Michael Medved, host, "The Michael Medved Show"

Neal Boortz, host, "The Neal Boortz Show"

Mr. Bolten

Mr. Bartlett

Mr. Snow

Created by: PI

Counsel's Office Review: Jim

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OVAL OFFICE LOG
September 15, 2006

<u>Time</u>	<u>Movement</u>
6:53 am	POTUS in
6:55 am	Bartlett in
6:56 am	Bolten in
7:07 am	Bolten out
7:11 am	Bolten, Kaplan in
7:19 am	Hadley in
7:34 am	Kaplan out
7:53 am	Bartlett to Outer Oval
7:53 am	Bartlett in
7:54 am	POTUS to Outer Oval
7:54 am	POTUS in to Cabinet Room for Radio Address
7:54 am	Bolten, Bartlett to Outer Oval
7:55 am	Hadley to Outer Oval
7:58 am	Bartlett, Hadley out
7:59 am	POTUS in to Outer Oval (Bolten in Outer Oval)
7:59 am	POTUS, Bolten in
8:00 am	Hadley in
8:05 am	POTUS, Bolten, Hadley out to Roosevelt Room for Intel Brief (Ron Burgess, (b)(3) in Roosevelt Room) 50 USC 3507
8:24 am	POTUS in (Ron Burgess, (b)(3) out of Roosevelt Room; Bolten remained in Roosevelt Room for NSC Meeting) 50 USC 3507
8:26 am	Hadley in
8:30 am	POTUS, Hadley out to Roosevelt Room for NSC Meeting
9:39 am	POTUS, Secretary Rice, Hadley, Bolten, General Hayden in
9:39 am	Bartlett in
9:57 am	Secretary Rice, General Hayden out
9:59 am	Bolten out
9:59 pm	Bartlett out
10:00 am	Hadley out
10:02 am	Bolten, Kaplan in
10:03 am	Secretary Kempthorne in
10:35 am	Secretary Kempthorne out
10:36 am	Bartlett, Snow, Perino in
10:37 am	Yanes in
10:37 am	Yanes out
10:38 am	Sullivan in
10:42 am	Crouch in
10:59 am	Kaplan, Crouch, Perino, Sullivan, Bolten, Snow, Bartlett out

Created by: _____

Counsel's Office Review: _____

11:00 am Bartlett, Snow in
11:00 am Snow out
11:01 am Bartlett out
11:01 am Snow in
11:01 am Bartlett in
11:03 am Hadley in
11:05 am Bolten, Yanes in
11:07 am Yanes, Snow out
11:09 am Bartlett out
11:09 am Bartlett in
11:11 am Snow, Perino in
11:14 am Bolten, Bartlett, Snow, Perino, Hadley out to Rose Garden
11:15 am POTUS out to Rose Garden for press conference
12:13 pm POTUS in
12:14 pm Bolten, Bartlett, Snow, Hadley, Sullivan, Perino in
12:17 pm POTUS, Bartlett, Snow, Bolten, Hadley, Sullivan, Perino to Outer Oval
12:18 pm Bartlett, Snow, Sullivan, Perino out
12:19 pm Bolten, Hadley out

(b)(6)

12:37 pm POTUS in
12:37 pm POTUS out to Colonnade
12:39 pm POTUS in
12:39 pm Bartlett, Snow in
12:42 pm Bolten in
12:44 pm Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Mike Gallagher, Michael Medved, Neal Boortz in
12:46 pm Bolten out
2:26 pm Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Mike Gallagher, Michael Medved, Neal Boortz
out
2:27 pm Bartlett, Snow out

(b)(6)

2:56 pm POTUS in
2:56 pm Yanes, Burck, McGurn, Thiessen, Michel, Bolten, Hadley, Bartlett, Sullivan in
3:41 pm Sullivan, Michel, Burck, McGurn, Yanes, Thiessen out
3:43 pm POTUS to Outer Oval
3:43 pm POTUS in
3:43 pm Hadley, Bartlett out
3:54 pm Crouch in
3:58 pm Crouch out
4:00 pm POTUS, Bolten out to Outer Oval
4:01 pm Bolten out

(b)(6)

SENSITIVE—DO NOT COPY

REVISED PRIVATE SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

Friday, September 15, 2006

7:50 am (10 min)	<u>Radio Address</u> (Bartlett)		Cabinet Room
8:00 am (30 min)	<u>Intelligence Briefing</u> (Hadley)		Roosevelt Room
8:35 am (45 min)	<u>NSC Meeting</u> (Hadley)		Roosevelt Room
9:25 am (20 min)	<u>Daily Briefing</u> (Bartlett)		Oval Office
9:50 am (5 min)	<u>Pre-Brief</u> (Kaplan)		Oval Office
10:00 am (25 min)	<u>Meeting with the Secretary of the Interior</u> (Kaplan)	TAB A	Oval Office
10:25 am (1 hr 35 min)	<u>Personal/Staff Time</u>		Oval Office

(b)(6)

12:35 pm (10 min)	<u>Press Pre-Brief</u> (Bartlett)		Oval Office
12:50 pm (1 hr)	<u>Meeting with Radio Talk Show Hosts</u> (Bartlett)	TAB B	Oval Office
1:50 pm	<u>Personal/Staff Time</u>		Oval Office

SENSITIVE—DO NOT COPY

09/14/06 5:59 pm

SENSITIVE--DO NOT COPY

46

Revised Final

9/14/06 2:55 pm

THE SCHEDULE OF VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY

PRIVATE

Friday, September 15, 2006

Note: Beverly Hills, CA (-3 EDT)
Los Angeles, CA (-3 EDT)
Menlo Park, CA (-3 EDT)
St. Michaels, MD (EDT)

Note: The briefing book will be delivered to The Regent Beverly Wilshire
at 4:45 am.

5:00 am
(30 min)

Intelligence Briefing.

Location: The Regent Beverly Wilshire (Hannah)
Via Secure Video from the Roosevelt Room

5:35 am
(45 min)

NSC Meeting.

Location: The Regent Beverly Wilshire (Hannah)
Via Secure Video from the Roosevelt Room

6:25 am
(30 min)

Intelligence Briefing.

Location: The Regent Beverly Wilshire (Hannah)

6:55 am
(4 hr 15 min)

Personal/Staff Time.

Location: The Regent Beverly Wilshire

11:10 am

Proceed to Vehicle.

11:15 am

Depart The Regent Beverly Wilshire en route (b)(6) Residence -
Los Angeles, CA.

11:25 am

Arrive (b)(6) Residence.

11:30 am
(10 min)

Photo Opportunity for the Republican Governors Association.

Location: Caruso Residence (Raines)

Closed Press

Business Attire

SENSITIVE--DO NOT COPY

11:45 am
(45 min) Roundtable for the Republican Governors Association.
Location: (b)(6) Residence (Raines)
Closed Press
Brief Remarks/Q&A
Business Attire

12:35 pm Depart (b)(6) Residence en route Los Angeles International Airport.

1:00 pm Arrive Los Angeles International Airport.

1:10 pm Depart Los Angeles International Airport en route Moffett Federal Air Field-Base Operations – Moffett Field, CA.
Flight Time: 1 hour 10 minutes
Time Change: None

Note: Departure is Open Press.

2:20 pm Arrive Moffett Federal Air Field-Base Operations.

Note: Arrival is Open Press.

2:30 pm Depart Moffett Federal Air Field-Base Operations en route Sequoia Capital – Menlo Park, CA.

2:55 pm Arrive Sequoia Capital.

3:00 pm
(1 hr) Roundtable for the Republican National Committee.
Location: Sequoia Capital (Raines)
Closed Press
Brief Remarks/Q&A
Business Attire

4:05 pm Depart Sequoia Capital en route Moffett Federal Air Field-Base Operations.

4:30 pm Arrive Moffett Federal Air Field-Base Operations.

4:40 pm Depart Moffett Federal Air Field-Base Operations en route Andrews Air Force Base.
Flight Time: 4 hours 50 minutes
Time Change: +3

Note: Departure is Open Press.

12:30 am Arrive Andrews Air Force Base.

Note: Arrival is Closed Press.

SENSITIVE--DO NOT COPY

12:40 am Depart Andrews Air Force Base en route Easton/Newnam Field LZ –
Easton, MD.
Flight Time: 25 minutes

Note: Departure is Closed Press.

1:05 am Arrive Easton/Newnam Field LZ.

Note: Arrival is Closed Press.

1:15 am Depart Easton/Newnam Field LZ en route Maryland Residence –
St. Michaels, MD.

1:35 am Arrive Maryland Residence.

Note: EA for Travel – Neil Patel

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Schedule	Schedule of Mrs. Bush in Washington, DC	1	09/15/2006	P6/b6;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

COLLECTION:

Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary Backup

FOLDER TITLE:

09/15/2006

FRC ID:

13590

OA Num.:

13679

NARA Num.:

13700

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2016-0130-F

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

McCathran, Ellen W.

From: Keller, Karen E.
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2006 12:16 PM
To: McCathran, Ellen W.
Subject: RE: Call Logs - Sept. 1-15

The ones I sent are actually only through 9/14. Thanks!

From: Keller, Karen E.
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2006 12:15 PM
To: McCathran, Ellen W.
Cc: Sherzer, David
Subject: Call Logs - Sept. 1-15

Welcome back, Ellen!

9/18/2006

✓

Friday, September 15, 2006

[illegible]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Friday, September 15, 2006

[illegible]

PRESIDENTIAL CALL LOG

SIGNAL SWITCHBOARD

Friday, September 15, 2006

[illegible]

PRESIDENTIAL CALL LOG

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

September 15, 2006

[illegible]

NSC MEETING

DATE: September 15, 2006
 TIME: 8:35 - 9:20 a.m. 8:30am - 9:40am
 LOCATION: Roosevelt Room

OVP

The Vice President (SVTS) ✓
 John Hannah ✓

JCS

General Peter Pace ✓
 Lt Gen John Sattler ✓

State

Secretary Condoleezza Rice ✓
 David Satterfield ✓
 Ambassador Khalilzad (SV) ✓

NSC

Meghan O'Sullivan ✓

Treasury

Deputy Secretary Robert Kimmitt ✓
 Vickie Alvo ✓

Dan Spekard attended
 via SVTS w/ Gen Casey.

Defense

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld (SVTS) ✓
 Eric Edelman ✓
 General John Abizaid (SVTS) ✓
 General George Casey (SVTS) ✓

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Chief of Staff

Joshua Bolten ✓
 Joel Kaplan ✓

DNI

Lt Gen Ronald Burgess ✓

WH Counselor

Dan Bartlett ✓

WH Counsel

Harriet Miers ✓

WH

Steve Hadley ✓
 J.D. Crouch II ✓

CIA

General Michael Hayden ✓

(b)(3) 50 USC 3507

- did not attend

Friday, September 15

6:50 The President to South Grounds, to Oval Office

11:15 The President to Rose Garden for press conference

12:18 The President to Oval Office

(b)(6)

McCathran, Ellen W.

From: Bennett, Melissa S.
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 12:28 PM
To: McCathran, Ellen W.
Cc: Houston, LaRhonda M.
Subject: FW: Speechwriting Meeting Today

From: Keller, Karen E.
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 12:24 PM
To: Bartlett, Dan; Yanes, Raul F.; Drouin, Lindsey E.
Cc: Dick, Denise Y.; Aylward, Patrick S.; Weinstein, Jared B.; Sherzer, David; Burdick, Amanda K.; Meyers, David R.; Draper, Eric; Bennett, Melissa S.
Subject: Speechwriting Meeting Today

The President told Josh he would like to do a meeting with speechwriters today at 2:30 pm to review UNGA speech. Thanks.

9/18/2006

McCathran, Ellen W.

From: bounce-288530-114377@list.whitehouse.gov on behalf of White House Press Releases
[Press.Releases@WhiteHouse.Gov]

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 8:35 AM

To: McCathran, Ellen W.

Subject: SCHEDULE UPDATE

THE PRESIDENT WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11:15 AM TODAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2006, IN THE ROSE GARDEN* TO SIGN UP, PLEASE CALL CARLTON AT 202-456-2673 BY 9:15 AM * PRE-SET: 8:45 AM ON DRIVEWAY IN FRONT OF WEST WING; FINAL CALL FOR CAMERAS: 10:30 AM ON DRIVEWAY IN FRONT OF WEST WING, FINAL CALL FOR WRITERS/CORRESPONDENTS: 10:50 AM ON DRIVEWAY IN FRONT OF WEST WING*NO GAGGLE AND NO BRIEFING

9/18/2006

**The Schedule
of the
President**

Friday, September 15, 2006

Ellen McCathran

EVENT MEMOS

A

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Briefing	Meeting with the Secretary of the Interior	2	09/15/2006	P5;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
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Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary Backup

FOLDER TITLE:

09/15/2006

FRC ID:

13590

OA Num.:

13679

NARA Num.:

13700

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2016-0130-F

RESTRICTION CODES

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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

B

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH RADIO TALK SHOW HOSTS

Friday, September 15, 2006

12:50 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Oval Office

Dan Bartlett

I. PURPOSE

To participate in a meeting with radio talk show hosts on the progress of the Global War on Terror in recognition of the fifth anniversary of 9/11.

II. BACKGROUND

This meeting is part of a series of interviews discussing September 11.

Sean Hannity interviewed you prior to the election in 2004 for his television show Hannity & Colmes. He attended the White House Holiday media party in 2004.

Laura Ingraham attended the White House Holiday media party in 2004 and 2005.

Mike Gallagher attended the White House Holiday media party in 2004. He was also invited to the White House Holiday media party in 2005, but was unable to attend when his flight from Dallas was grounded due to inclement weather.

You met **Michael Medved** during the 2000 campaign at a religious leaders' breakfast in Bellevue, WA. He was one of your early supporters in the Jewish community, and he interviewed you for his radio show in 2000. Mr. Medved has been invited to several White House Hanukah parties, but has been unable to attend.

Neal Boortz attended the White House Holiday media party in 2005.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Sean Hannity, Host, "The Sean Hannity Show"

Laura Ingraham, Host, "The Laura Ingraham Show"

Mike Gallagher, Host, "The Mike Gallagher Show"

Michael Medved, Host, "The Michael Medved Show"

Neal Boortz, Host, "The Neal Boortz Show"

White House Staff Attending

Dan Bartlett, Counselor to the President

Tony Snow, Press Secretary

IV. PRESS PLAN

The talk radio hosts will not be able to quote you directly. They will be able to say that they met with you and describe your thinking on issues of the day.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Note: There will be a pre-brief in the Oval Office led by Dan Bartlett and Tony Snow.

- You are met by the participants in the Oval Office.
- You begin your meeting.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants depart.

VII. ATTACHMENT

Biographies of Radio Hosts

BIOGRAPHIES OF RADIO HOSTS

Sean Hannity, Host, "The Sean Hannity Show"

Sean Hannity is currently a nationally syndicated radio talk show host. He broadcasts out of WABC radio studios in New York City and is heard on over 500 stations nationwide. His program boasts the second-largest radio audience in the country, heard by over 13 million listeners a week. The show was recently made available via Armed Forces Radio Network. Hannity also co-hosts the Fox News Channel political debate program, *Hannity & Colmes*, and is the author of two best-selling conservative books Let Freedom Ring and Deliver Us From Evil. He and his wife Jill reside in Long Island, New York, and have two children, Patrick (age 8) and Merri Kelly (age 4).

Laura Ingraham, Host, "The Laura Ingraham Show"

Laura Ingraham graduated from Dartmouth College and worked as a speechwriter for the Reagan Administration at the White House, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Education. She went on to graduate from the University of Virginia School of Law. Ingraham served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Ralph K. Winter on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She launched her radio show in 2001 and is carried on more than 250 stations nationwide. She is an author, frequent columnist, and television commentator. Ingraham was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005. She underwent chemotherapy and is currently in remission and doing well.

Mike Gallagher, Host, "The Mike Gallagher Show"

In 1998, The Mike Gallagher Show was launched on the Salem Radio Network with 12 radio stations. Today, he's the sixth most listened-to talk radio host in America with over 3.75 million weekly listeners. Besides his talk radio duties, Gallagher is a Fox News Channel contributor. Gallagher and his wife Denise live in Dallas and have four adult boys, Bryan, Trevor, and twins Matthew and Micah.

Michael Medved, Host, "The Michael Medved Show:"

Michael Medved is a nationally syndicated radio talk show host, best-selling author, and veteran film critic. His daily program, emphasizing the intersection of politics and pop culture, reaches more than 2 million listeners in over 180 markets nationwide. Mr. Medved is the author of ten non-fiction books as well as the definitive history of the White House chiefs of staff, The Shadow Presidents. Medved and his wife, Diane, live in the Seattle area where they've raised their three children: Sarah (age 19), Shayna (age 17), and Danny (age 14).

Mr. Medved graduated from Yale ('69) and then attended Yale Law School, where his classmates included Bill and Hillary Clinton. Mr. Medved was a member of the Liberal Party of the Yale Political Union (Sen. Kerry was Chairman of the group at the time). He also met Lanny Davis at Yale, and they remain close friends.

Neal Boortz, Host, "The Neal Boortz Show"

Neal Boortz is a popular libertarian talk radio host based in Atlanta, GA. Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 1945 to a military family, Neal spent much of his youth living in many locations throughout the country, including, the small town of Thrall, TX. Prior to his career in radio, Boortz was a speechwriter for then-Georgia Governor Lester Maddox, and a practicing attorney from 1977 to 1992. He was Evander Holyfield's attorney for eight years. He began his radio career in the 1960's at

WTAW-AM while attending Texas A&M University where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets. Today, his show's listeners total 4-5 million a week and after 36 years on the air, he is currently the longest-running radio talk show host in America. Boortz also wrote The FairTax Book, co-authored by former Congressman John Linder (R-GA), The Terrible Truth About Liberals, and Somebody's Gotta Say It, due out next Spring. He and his wife Donna have one adult daughter, Laura Johnson.

McCathran, Ellen W.

From: bounce-288789-114377@list.whitehouse.gov on behalf of White House Press Releases
[Press.Releases@WhiteHouse.Gov]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 2:41 PM
To: McCathran, Ellen W.
Subject: PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2006

PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Rose Garden

11:15 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: It's always a pleasure to be introduced into the Rose Garden. Thank you, Wendell. Thank you for coming. I'm looking forward to answering some of your questions.

This week our nation paused to mark the 5th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. It was a tough day for a lot of our citizens. I was so honored to meet with family members and first responders, workers at the Pentagon, all who still had heaviness in their heart. But they asked me a question, you know, they kept asking me, what do you think the level of determination for this country is in order to protect ourselves, is what they want to know.

You know, for me, it was a reminder about how I felt right after 9/11. I felt a sense of determination and conviction about doing everything that is necessary to protect the people. I'm going to go back to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly. I'm going to talk to world leaders gathered there about our obligation to defend civilization and liberty, to support the forces of freedom and moderation throughout the Middle East. As we work with the international community to defeat the terrorists and extremists, to provide an alternative to their hateful ideology, we must also provide our military and intelligence professionals with the tools they need to protect our country from another attack. And the reason they need those tools is because the enemy wants to attack us again.

Right here in the Oval Office, I get briefed nearly every morning about the nature of this world, and I get briefed about the

9/18/2006

desire of an enemy to hurt America. And it's a sobering experience, as I'm sure you can imagine. I wish that weren't the case, you know. But it is the case. And, therefore, I believe it is vital that our folks on the front line have the tools necessary to protect the American people.

There are two vital pieces of legislation in Congress now that I think are necessary to help us win the war on terror. We will work with members of both parties to get legislation that works out of the Congress. The first bill will allow us to use military commissions to try suspected terrorists for war crimes. We need the legislation because the Supreme Court recently ruled that military commissions must be explicitly authorized by Congress. So we're working with Congress. The Supreme Court said, you must work with Congress; we are working with Congress to get a good piece of legislation out.

The bill I have proposed will ensure that suspected terrorists will receive full and fair trials, without revealing to them our nation's sensitive intelligence secrets. As soon as Congress acts on this bill, the man our intelligence agencies believe helped orchestrate the 9/11 attacks can face justice.

The bill would also provide clear rules for our personnel involved in detaining and questioning captured terrorists. The information that the Central Intelligence Agency has obtained by questioning men like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has provided valuable information and has helped disrupt terrorist plots, including strikes within the United States.

For example, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed described the design of planned attacks of buildings inside the U.S. and how operatives were directed to carry them out. That is valuable information for those of us who have the responsibility to protect the American people. He told us the operatives had been instructed to ensure that the explosives went off at a high -- a point that was high enough to prevent people trapped above from escaping. He gave us information that helped uncover al Qaeda cells' efforts to obtain biological weapons.

We've also learned information from the CIA program that has helped stop other plots, including attacks on the U.S. Marine base in East Africa, or American consulate in Pakistan, or Britain's Heathrow Airport. This program has been one of the most vital tools in our efforts to protect this country. It's been invaluable to our country, and it's invaluable to our allies.

Were it not for this program, our intelligence community believes that al Qaeda and its allies would have succeeded in launching another attack against the American homeland. Making us -- giving us information about terrorist plans we couldn't get anywhere

else, this program has saved innocent lives. In other words, it's vital. That's why I asked Congress to pass legislation so that our professionals can go forward, doing the duty we expect them to do. Unfortunately, the recent Supreme Court decision put the future of this program in question. That's another reason I went to Congress. We need this legislation to save it.

I am asking Congress to pass a clear law with clear guidelines based on the Detainee Treatment Act that was strongly supported by Senator John McCain. There is a debate about the specific provisions in my bill, and we'll work with Congress to continue to try to find common ground. I have one test for this legislation, I'm going to answer one question as this legislation proceeds, and it's this: The intelligence community must be able to tell me that the bill Congress sends to my desk will allow this vital program to continue. That's what I'm going to ask.

The second bill before Congress would modernize our electronic surveillance laws and provide additional authority for the terrorist surveillance program. I authorized the National Security Agency to operate this vital program in response to the 9/11 attacks. It allows us to quickly monitor terrorist communications between someone overseas and someone in the United States, and it's helped detect and prevent attacks on our country.

The principle behind this program is clear: when an al Qaeda operative is calling into the United States or out of the country, we need to know who they're calling, why they're calling, and what they're planning. Both these bills are essential to winning the war on terror. We will work with Congress to get good bills out. We have a duty, we have a duty to work together to give our folks on the front line the tools necessary to protect America. Time is running out. Congress is set to adjourn in just a few weeks. Congress needs to act wisely and promptly so I can sign good legislation.

And now I'll be glad to answer some questions. Terry.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, former Secretary of State Colin Powell says the world is beginning to doubt the moral basis of our fight against terrorism. If a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former Secretary of State feels this way, don't you think that Americans and the rest of the world are beginning to wonder whether you're following a flawed strategy?

THE PRESIDENT: If there's any comparison between the compassion and decency of the American people and the terrorist tactics of extremists, it's flawed logic. I simply can't accept that. It's unacceptable to think that there's any kind of comparison between the behavior of the United States of America and the action of Islamic extremists who kill innocent women and children to achieve an

objective, Terry.

My job, and the job of people here in Washington, D.C., is to protect this country. We didn't ask for this war. You might remember the 2000 campaign. I don't remember spending much time talking about what it might be like to be a Commander-in-Chief in a different kind of war. But this enemy has struck us and they want to strike us again. And we will give our folks the tools necessary to protect the country; that's our job.

It's a dangerous world. I wish it wasn't that way. I wish I could tell the American people, don't worry about it, they're not coming again. But they are coming again. And that's why I've sent this legislation up to Congress, and that's why we'll continue to work with allies in building a vast coalition, to protect not only ourselves, but them. The facts are, is that after 9/11, this enemy continued to attack and kill innocent people.

I happen to believe that they're bound by a common ideology. Matter of fact, I don't believe that, I know they are. And they want to impose that ideology throughout the broader Middle East. That's what they have said. It makes sense for the Commander-in-Chief, and all of us involved in protecting this country to listen to the words of the enemy. And I take their words seriously. And that's what's going to be necessary to protect this country, is to listen carefully to what they say and stay ahead of them as they try to attack us.

Steve.

Q Can I just follow up?

THE PRESIDENT: No, you can't. Steve. If we follow up, we're not going to get -- I want Hillman to be able to ask a question. It's his last press conference -- not yet, Hillman. (Laughter.) Soon. You and Wendell seem --

Q Thank you very much, sir. What do you say to the argument that your proposal is basically seeking support for torture, coerced evidence and secret hearings? And Senator McCain says your plan will put U.S. troops at risk. What do you think about that?

THE PRESIDENT: This debate is occurring because of the Supreme Court's ruling that said that we must conduct ourselves under the Common Article III of the Geneva Convention. And that Common Article III says that there will be no outrages upon human dignity. It's very vague. What does that mean, "outrages upon human dignity"? That's a statement that is wide open to interpretation. And what I'm proposing is that there be clarity in the law so that our professionals will have no doubt that that which they are doing is legal. You know, it's -- and so the piece of legislation I sent up

there provides our professionals that which is needed to go forward.

The first question that we've got to ask is, do we need the program? I believe we do need the program. And I detailed in a speech in the East Room what the program has yield -- in other words, the kind of information we get when we interrogate people, within the law. You see, sometimes you can pick up information on the battlefield; sometimes you can pick it up through letters; but sometimes you actually have to question the people who know the strategy and plans of the enemy. And in this case, we questioned people like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who we believe ordered the attacks on 9/11, or Ramzi Binalshibh, or Abu Zabda -- cold-blooded killers who were part of planning the attack that killed 3,000 people. And we need to be able to question them, because it helps yield information, the information necessary for us to be able to do our job.

Now, the Court said that you've got to live under Article III of the Geneva Convention, and the standards are so vague that our professionals won't be able to carry forward the program, because they don't want to be tried as war criminals. They don't want to break the law. These are decent, honorable citizens who are on the front line of protecting the American people, and they expect our government to give them clarity about what is right and what is wrong in the law. And that's what we have asked to do.

And we believe a good way to go is to use the amendment that we worked with John McCain on, called the Detainee Treatment Act, as the basis for clarity for people we would ask to question the enemy. In other words, it is a way to bring U.S. law into play. It provides more clarity for our professionals. And that's what these people expect. These are decent citizens who don't want to break the law.

Now, this idea that somehow we've got to live under international treaties, you know -- and that's fine, we do, but oftentimes the United States passes law to clarify obligations under international treaty. And what I'm concerned about is if we don't do that, then it's very conceivable our professionals could be held to account based upon court decisions in other countries. And I don't believe Americans want that. I believe Americans want us to protect the country, to have clear standards for our law enforcement intelligence officers, and give them the tools necessary to protect us within the law.

It's an important debate, Steve. It really is. It's a debate that really is going to define whether or not we can protect ourselves. I will tell you this, I've spent a lot of time on this issue, as you can imagine, and I've talked to professionals, people I

count on for advice -- these are people that are going to represent those on the front line of protecting this country. They're not going forward with the program. They're not going -- the professionals will not step up unless there's clarity in the law. So Congress has got a decision to make: Do you want the program to go forward or not?

I strongly recommend that this program go forward in order for us to be able to protect America.

Hillman. This is Hillman's last press conference, so -- sorry, sorry, about that.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. On another of your top priorities, immigration, leaders of both parties have indicated that any chance of comprehensive immigration reform is dead before the election. Is this an issue you would like to revisit in a lame duck session after the election? Or would it be put off until the new Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Bob, I strongly believe that in order to protect this border, Congress has got to pass a comprehensive plan that on the one hand provides additional money to secure the border, and on the other hand recognizes that people are sneaking in here to do jobs Americans aren't doing. It would be better that they not sneak in, that they would come on a temporary basis, in an orderly way to do work Americans aren't doing and then go home. And I will continue to urge Congress to think comprehensively about this vital piece of legislation.

I went up to the Hill yesterday, and of course this topic came up. It's exactly what I told the members of Congress. They wanted to know whether or not we were implementing border security measures that they had funded last January, and the answer is, we are. One of the key things I told them was we had ended what's called "catch and release." That was a -- you know, a Border Patrol agent would find somebody, particularly from -- not from Mexico, and would say, well, we don't have enough detention space, so why don't you come back and check in with the local person you're supposed to check in with, and then they'd never show back up. And that, of course, frustrated the Border Patrol agents, it frustrates American citizens, it frustrates me, and we ended it, because Congress appropriated money that increased the number of beds available to detain people when we get them sneaking into our country illegally.

The border has become modernized. And Secretary Chertoff here, later on this month, will be announcing further modernizations, as he had led a contract that will use all kinds of different technologies to make the border more secure. But in the long run, to secure this border, we've got to have a rational work plan.

And, finally, we're going to have to treat people with dignity in this country. Ours is a nation of immigrants, and when Congress gets down to a comprehensive bill, I would just remind them, it's virtually impossible to try to find 11 million folks who have been here, working hard -- and, in some cases, raising families -- and kick them out. It's just not going to work. But granting automatic citizenship won't work either. To me, that would just provide an additional incentive for people to try to sneak in, and so therefore there is a rational way forward. I'll continue working -- I don't know the timetable. My answer is, as soon as possible, that's what I'd like to see done.

Thank you. Let's see, Wendell. Coming your way. Everybody is going to get one.

Q My apologies, Mr. President, for talking too long at the start.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't worry. I'm not going to apologize for talking too long to your answer. (Laughter.)

Q Talk as long as you'd like, sir. (Laughter.)

When you go to New York next week, it's our thinking that one of the things you'll be trying to do is to get more international support for taking a tough stance against Iran. I wonder how much that is frustrated by two things: one, the war in Iraq and world criticism of that; and the other, the Iraqi Prime Minister going to Iran and basically challenging your administration's claim that Iran is meddling in Iraqi affairs.

THE PRESIDENT: First, Wendell, my decision, along with other countries, to remove Saddam Hussein, has obviously created some concern amongst allies, but it certainly hasn't diminished the coalitions we put together to deal with radicalism. For example, there's 70 nations involved with the Proliferation Security Initiative, and that's an initiative to help prevent weapons of mass destruction and/or component parts from being delivered to countries that could use them to hurt us; or the broad war on terror, the intelligence sharing or financial -- sharing of financial information; or Afghanistan, where NATO troops are there now, along with ours.

In other words, there's a broad coalition. Most nations recognize the threat of Iran having a nuclear weapon in the middle of the Middle East. And there's common consensus that we need to work together to prevent the Iranian regime from developing that nuclear weapons program.

I am pleased that there is strong consensus. And now the objective is to continue reminding the Iranian regime that there is unanimity in the world, and that we will move forward together. And we expect them to come to the table and negotiate with the EU in good faith. And should they choose to verifiably suspend their program, their enrichment program, we'll come to the table. That's what we have said; offer still stands.

During the Hezbollah attacks on Israel, the United Nations did pass a resolution with our European friends and ourselves, and, of course, Russia and China voting for the resolution. I think it passed 14 to 1; one nation voted against the resolution toward Iran. So there is common consensus. And you've heard me lament oftentimes, it takes a while to get diplomacy working. There's one nation of Iran and a bunch of nations like us trying to kind of head in the same direction. And my concern is that they'll stall, they'll try to wait us out.

So part of my objective in New York is to remind people that stalling shouldn't be allowed. In other words, we need to move the process, and they need to understand we're firm in our commitment, and if they try to drag their feet or get us to look the other way, that we won't do that -- that we're firmly committed in our desire to send a common signal to the Iranian regime.

It is important for the Iranian people to also understand we respect them; we respect their history; we respect their traditions; we respect the right for people to worship freely, we would hope that people would be able to express themselves in the public square; and that our intention is to make the world safer. And we'll continue to do so.

Suzanne. And then Martha.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. If I could follow up on that question.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian President, will actually be in the same building as you next week, in Manhattan for the United Nations General Assembly. You say that you want to give the message to the Iranian people that you respect them. Is this not an opportunity, perhaps, to show that you also respect their leader? Would you be willing to, perhaps, meet face-to-face with Ahmadinejad, and would this possibly be a breakthrough, some sort of opportunity for a breakthrough on a personal level?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not going to meet with him. I have made it clear to the Iranian regime that we will sit down with the

Iranians once they verifiably suspend their enrichment program. I meant what I said.

Martha.

Q Mr. President, you have said throughout the war in Iraq and building up to the war in Iraq that there was a relationship between Saddam Hussein and Zarqawi and al Qaeda. A Senate Intelligence Committee report a few weeks ago said there was no link, no relationship, and that the CIA knew this and issued a report last fall. And, yet, a month ago you were still saying there was a relationship. Why did you keep saying that? Why do you continue to say that? And do you still believe that?

THE PRESIDENT: The point I was making to Ken Herman's question was that Saddam Hussein was a state sponsor of terror, and that Mr. Zarqawi was in Iraq. He had been wounded in Afghanistan, had come to Iraq for treatment. He had ordered the killing of a U.S. citizen in Jordan. I never said there was an operational relationship. I was making the point that Saddam Hussein had been declared a state sponsor of terror for a reason, and, therefore, he was dangerous.

The broader point I was saying -- I was reminding people why we removed Saddam Hussein from power. He was dangerous. I would hope people aren't trying to rewrite the history of Saddam Hussein -- all of a sudden, he becomes kind of a benevolent fellow. He's a dangerous man. And one of the reasons he was declared a state sponsor of terror was because that's what he was. He harbored terrorists; he paid for families of suicide bombers. Never have I said that Saddam Hussein gave orders to attack 9/11. What I did say was, after 9/11, when you see a threat, you've got to take it seriously. And I saw a threat in Saddam Hussein -- as did Congress, as did the United Nations. I firmly believe the world is better off without Saddam in power, Martha.

Dave. He's back.

Q Sorry, I've got to get disentangled --

THE PRESIDENT: Would you like me to go to somebody else here, until you -- (laughter.)

Q Sorry.

THE PRESIDENT: But take your time, please. (Laughter.)

Q I really apologize for that. Anyway --

THE PRESIDENT: I must say, having gone through those gyrations, you're looking beautiful today, Dave. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, critics of your proposed bill on interrogation rules say there's another important test -- these critics include John McCain, who you've mentioned several times this morning -- and that test is this: If a CIA officer, paramilitary or special operations soldier from the United States were captured in Iran or North Korea, and they were roughed up, and those governments said, well, they were interrogated in accordance with our interpretation of the Geneva Conventions, and then they were put on trial and they were convicted based on secret evidence that they were not able to see, how would you react to that, as Commander-in-Chief?

THE PRESIDENT: David, my reaction is, is that if the nations such as those you named, adopted the standards within the Detainee Detention Act, the world would be better. That's my reaction. We're trying to clarify law. We're trying to set high standards, not ambiguous standards.

And let me just repeat, Dave, we can debate this issue all we want, but the practical matter is, if our professionals don't have clear standards in the law, the program is not going to go forward. You cannot ask a young intelligence officer to violate the law. And they're not going to. They -- let me finish, please -- they will not violate the law. You can ask this question all you want, but the bottom line is -- and the American people have got to understand this -- that this program won't go forward; if there is vague standards applied, like those in Common Article III from the Geneva Convention, it's just not going to go forward. You can't ask a young professional on the front line of protecting this country to violate law.

Now, I know they said they're not going to prosecute them. Think about that: Go ahead and violate it, we won't prosecute you. These people aren't going to do that, Dave. Now, we can justify anything you want and bring up this example or that example, I'm just telling you the bottom line, and that's why this debate is important, and it's a vital debate.

Now, perhaps some in Congress don't think the program is important. That's fine. I don't know if they do or don't. I think it's vital, and I have the obligation to make sure that our professionals who I would ask to go conduct interrogations to find out what might be happening or who might be coming to this country, I got to give them the tools they need. And that is clear law.

Q But sir, this is an important point, and I think it depends --

THE PRESIDENT: The point I just made is the most important point.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: And that is the program is not going forward. David, you can give a hypothetical about North Korea, or any other country, the point is that the program is not going to go forward if our professionals do not have clarity in the law. And the best way to provide clarity in the law is to make sure the Detainee Treatment Act is the crux of the law. That's how we define Common Article III, and it sets a good standard for the countries that you just talked about.

Next man.

Q No, but wait a second, I think this is an important point -

THE PRESIDENT: I know you think it's an important point.
(Laughter.)

Q Sir, with respect, if other countries interpret the Geneva Conventions as they see fit -- as they see fit -- you're saying that you'd be okay with that?

THE PRESIDENT: I am saying that I would hope that they would adopt the same standards we adopt; and that by clarifying Article III, we make it stronger, we make it clearer, we make it definite.

And I will tell you again, David, you can ask every hypothetical you want, but the American people have got to know the facts. And the bottom line is simple: If Congress passes a law that does not clarify the rules, if they do not do that, the program is not going forward.

Q This will not endanger U.S. troops, in your --

THE PRESIDENT: Next man.

Q This will not endanger U.S. troops --

THE PRESIDENT: David, next man, please. Thank you. It took you a long time to unravel, and it took you a long time to ask your question.

Q Morning, sir. I'd like to ask you another question about Iraq. It's been another bloody day there. The last several weeks have been 40, 50, 60 bodies a day. We've been talking for the last several months about Iraq being on the brink of a civil war. I'd like to ask you if it's not time to start talking about Iraq as being in a civil war, and if it's not, what's the threshold?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it seems like it's pretty easy to

speculate from over here about the conditions on the ground. And so what I do is I talk to people like our Ambassador and General Casey, which I just did this morning. And they, and the Iraqi government, just don't agree with the hypothesis it is a civil war. They believe that there's, no question, violence; they believe that al Qaeda is still creating havoc; they know there's people taking reprisal; they're confident there are still Saddamists who are threatening people and carrying out attacks.

But they also believe that the Baghdad security plan is making progress. There was a lot of discussion about al-Anbar province recently, and I spent some time talking with our commanders. No question it's a dangerous place. It's a place where al Qaeda is really trying to root themselves; it's a place from which they'd like to operate. You know, this business about al Qaeda -- al-Anbar's loss is just not the case; it's not what our commanders think.

So to answer your question, there's no question it's tough. What I look for is whether or not the unity government is moving forward, whether or not they have a political plan to resolve issues such as oil and federalism, whether or not they're willing to reconcile, and whether or not Iraqi troops and Iraqi police are doing their jobs.

Q But how do you measure progress with a body count like that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, one way you do it is you measure progress based upon the resilience of the Iraqi people; do they want there to be a unity government, or are they splitting up into factions of people warring with the head leaders, with different alternatives of governing styles and different philosophies. The unity government is intact. It's working forward. They're making tough decisions. And we'll stay with them. We'll stay with them because success in Iraq is important for this country. We're constantly changing our tactics. We're constantly adapting to the enemy. We're constantly saying, here's the way forward, we want to work with you. But this is really the big challenge of the 21st century, whether or not this country and allies are willing to stand with moderate people in order to fight off extremists. It is the challenge.

I said the other night in a speech, this is like the ideological war of the 21st century, and I believe it. And I believe that if we leave that region, if we don't help democracy prevail, then our children and grandchildren will be faced with an unbelievable chaotic and dangerous situation in the Middle East. Imagine -- imagine an enemy that can't stand what we believe in getting a hold of oil resources and taking a bunch of oil off the market in order to have an economic punishment. In other words, they say, you go ahead and do this, and if you don't, we'll punish you economically. Or imagine a Middle East with an Iran with a nuclear weapon threatening free

nations and trying to promote their vision of extremism through Hezbollah.

I find it interesting that young democracies are being challenged by extremists. I also take great hope in the fact that, by far, the vast majority of people want normalcy and want peace, including in Iraq; that there is a deep desire for people to raise their children in a peaceful world; the desire for mothers to have the best for their child. And it's not -- there isn't -- you know, Americans -- you've got to understand, this is universal. And the idea of just saying, well, that's not important for us, to me, or the future of the country, it's just not acceptable.

And I know it's tough in Iraq. Of course it's tough in Iraq, because an enemy is trying to stop this new democracy, just like people are trying to stop the development of a Palestinian state, which I strongly support; or people trying to undermine the Lebanese democracy. And the reason why is because the ideologues understand that liberty will trump their dark vision of the world every time. And that's why I call it an ideological struggle. And it's a necessary struggle, and it's a vital struggle.

Richard.

Q Mr. President, as you prepare to go up to the United Nations next week to address the General Assembly, Secretary Kofi Annan has been critical of some of U.S. policies, particularly in Afghanistan lately. How would you characterize the relationship between the United States and the United Nations at this point?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, my personal relationship with Kofi Annan is good. I like him. And we've got a good relationship, personal relationship. I think a lot of Americans are frustrated with the United Nations, to be frank with you. Take, for example, Darfur. I'm frustrated with the United Nations in regards to Darfur. I have said, and this government has said, there's genocide taking place in the Sudan. And it breaks our collective hearts to know that.

We believe that the best way to solve the problem is there be a political track, as well as a security track. And part of the security track was for there initially to be African Union forces, supported by the international community, hopefully to protect innocent lives from militia. And the AU force is there, but it's not robust enough. It needs to be bigger. It needs to be more viable.

And so the strategy was then to go to the United Nations and pass a resolution enabling the AU force to become blue-helmeted -- that means, become a United Nations peacekeeping force -- with additional support from around the world. And I suggested that there

also be help from NATO nations in logistics and support, in order to make the security effective enough so that a political process could go forward to save lives.

The problem is, is that the United Nations hasn't acted. And so I can understand why those who are concerned about Darfur are frustrated; I am. I'd like to see more robust United Nations action. What you'll hear is, well, the government of Sudan must invite the United Nations in for us to act. Well, there are other alternatives, like passing a resolution saying, we're coming in with a U.N. force, in order to save lives.

I'm proud of our country's support for those who suffer. We've provided by far the vast majority of food and aid. I'm troubled by reports I hear about escalating violence. I can understand the desperation people feel for women being pulled out of these refugee centers and raped. And now is the time for the U.N. to act.

So you asked if there are levels of frustration -- there's a particular level of frustration. I also believe that the United Nations can do a better job spending the taxpayer -- our taxpayers' money. I think there needs to be better management structures in place, better accountability in the organization. I hope the United Nations still strongly stands for liberty. I hope they would support my call to end tyranny in the 21st century.

So I'm looking forward to going up there to -- it's always an interesting experience, Richard, for a West Texas fellow to speak to the United Nations. And I'm going to have a strong message, one that's -- hope, based upon hope, and my belief that the civilized world must stand with moderate reformist-minded people and help them realize their dreams. I believe that's the call of the 21st century.

Let's see, who else? The front row people have all asked. Hutch.

Q Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Thank you.

Q On both the eavesdropping program and the detainee issues -

THE PRESIDENT: We call it the terrorist surveillance program, Hutch.

Q That's the one.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You're working with Congress sort of after the fact, after you established these programs on your own authority. And federal courts have ruled in both cases, you overstepped your authority. Is your willingness to work with Congress now an acknowledgment that that is a fact?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I strongly believe that the district court ruling on the terrorist surveillance program was flawed. And there's a court process to determine whether or not my belief is true. That's why it's on appeal. We're working with Congress to add certainty to the program.

In terms of the Hamdan decision, I obviously believed that I could move forward with military commissions. Other Presidents had. The Supreme Court didn't agree, and they said, work with Congress. And that's why we're working with Congress.

McKinnon.

Q Thank you, sir. Polls show that many people are still more focused on domestic issues, like the economy, than on the international issues in deciding how to vote in November. And I'd just like to ask you if you could contrast what you think will happen on the economy if Republicans retain control of Congress versus what happens on the economy if Democrats take over?

THE PRESIDENT: If I weren't here -- first of all, I don't believe the Democrats are going to take over, because our record on the economy is strong. If the American people would take a step back and realize how effective our policies have been, given the circumstances, they will continue to embrace our philosophy of government. We've overcome recession, attacks, hurricanes, scandals, and the economy is growing -- 4.7 percent unemployment rate. It's been a strong economy. And I've strongly believed the reason it is because we cut taxes, and at the same time, showed fiscal responsibility here in Washington with the people's money. That's why the deficit could be cut in half by 2009, or before.

And so I shouldn't answer your hypothetical, but I will. I believe if the Democrats had the capacity to, they would raise taxes on the working people. That's what I believe. They'll call it tax on the rich, but that's not the way it works in Washington, see. For example, running up the top income tax bracket would tax small businesses. A lot of small businesses are subchapter-S corporations or limited partnerships that pay tax at the individual level. And if you raise income taxes on them, you hurt job creation. Our answer to economic growth is to make the tax cuts permanent, so there's certainty in the tax code, and people have got money to spend in their pockets.

I've always felt the economy is a determinate issue, if not the determinate issue in campaigns. We've had a little history of that in our family -- (laughter) -- you might remember. But it's a -- I certainly hope this election is based upon economic performance.

Let's see here, kind of working my way -- yes, Mark.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I'd also like to ask an election-related question. The Republican Leader in the House this week said that Democrats -- he wonders if they are more interested in protecting the terrorists than protecting the American people. Do you agree with him, sir? And do you think that's the right tone to set for this upcoming campaign, or do you think he owes somebody an apology?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't have exactly put it that way. But I do believe there's a difference of attitude. I mean, take the Patriot Act, for example -- an interesting debate that took place, not once, but twice, and the second time around there was a lot of concern about whether or not the Patriot Act was necessary to protect the country. There's no doubt in my mind we needed to make sure the Patriot Act was renewed to tear down walls that exist so that intelligence people could serve -- could share information with criminal people. It wasn't the case, Mark, before 9/11.

In other words, if somebody had some intelligence that they thought was necessary to protect the people, they couldn't share that with somebody who's job it was to rout people out of society to prevent them from attacking. It made no sense. And so there was a healthy debate, and we finally got the Patriot Act extended after it was passed right after 9/11. To me it was an indication of just a difference of approach.

No one should ever question the patriotism of somebody who -- let me just start over. I don't question the patriotism of somebody who doesn't agree with me. I just don't. And I think it's unwise to do that. I don't think that's what leaders do. I do think that -- I think that there is a difference of opinion here in Washington about tools necessary to protect the country -- the terrorist surveillance program -- or what did you call it, Hutcheson, yes, the illegal eavesdropping program -- (laughter) -- IEP, as opposed to TSP. (Laughter.) There's just a difference of opinion about what we need to do to protect our country, Mark. I'm confident the Leader, you know, meant nothing personal. I know that he shares my concern that we pass good legislation to get something done.

Ken.

Q Thank you, sir. I'd be interested in your thoughts and remembrances about Ann Richards, and particularly what you learned in

running against her 12 years ago.

THE PRESIDENT: Obviously, Laura and I pray for her family. I know this is a tough time for her children. She loved her children and they loved her a lot.

Running against Ann Richards taught me a lot. She was a really, really good candidate. She was a hard worker. She had the capacity to be humorous and, yet, make a profound point. I think she made a positive impact on the state of Texas. One thing is for certain, she empowered a lot of people to be -- to want to participate in the political process that might not have felt that they were welcome in the process.

I'll miss her. She was a -- she really kind of helped define Texas politics in its best way. And one of the things we have done is we've -- in our history we've had characters, people larger than life, people that could fill the stage; when the spotlight was on them, wouldn't shirk from the spotlight but would talk Texan and explain -- explain our state. And she was really good at that.

And so I'm sad she passed away, and I wish her family all the best, and all her friends. She had a lot of friends in Texas. A lot of people loved Ann Richards.

And as I understand, they're working on the deal and how to honor her, and she'll be lying in state in the capitol, and --

Q Will you be sending anybody to --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I will send somebody to represent me. I don't know who it is going to be yet. Well, we're trying to get the details. Before I ask somebody, I've got to find out the full details.

Thanks for asking the question. Let's see, New York Times, Sheryl.

Q Hi, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. How are you doing?

Q I'm well today, thank you. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Did you start with, hi, Mr. President?

Q Hello, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, that's fine. Either way, that's always a friendly greeting, thank you.

Q We're a friendly newspaper.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter.) Let me just say, I'd hate to see unfriendly. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Want me to go on to somebody else, and you collect your -- (laughter.) Sorry, go ahead, Sheryl.

Q Mr. President, your administration had all summer to negotiate with lawmakers on the detainee legislation. How is it that you now find yourself in a situation where you have essentially an open rebellion on Capitol Hill led by some of the leading members of your own party, very respected voices in military affairs? And, secondly, would you veto the bill if it passes in the form that the Armed Services Committee approved yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: First, we have been working throughout the summer, talking to key players about getting a bill that will enable the program to go forward, and was pleased that the House of Representatives passed a good bill with an overwhelming bipartisan majority out of their committee, the Armed Services Committee. And I felt that was good progress. And, obviously, we've got a little work to do in the Senate, and we'll continue making our case. But, no, we've been involved -- ever since the Supreme Court decision came down, Sheryl, we've been talking about both the military tribunals and this Article III of the Geneva Convention.

Article III of the Geneva Convention is hard for a lot of citizens to understand. Let's see if I can put it this way for people to understand -- there is a very vague standard that the Court said must kind of be the guide for our conduct in the war on terror and the detainee policy. It's so vague that it's impossible to ask anybody to participate in the program for fear -- for that person having the fear of breaking the law. That's the problem.

And so we worked with members of both bodies and both parties to try to help bring some definition to Common Article III. I really don't think most Americans want international courts being able to determine how we protect ourselves. And my assurance to people is that we can pass law here in the United States that helps define our treaty -- international treaty obligations. We have done that in the past. It is not the first time that we have done this. And I believe it's necessary to do it this time in order for the program to go forward.

Peter.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Sheryl's second question was whether you would veto the bill as it passed yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't -- that's like saying, can you work with a Democrat Congress, when I don't think the Democrat Congress is going to get elected. I believe we can get a good bill. And there is -- as you know, there's several steps in this process. The House will be working on a bill next week, the Senate will be. Hopefully we can reconcile differences. Hopefully we can come together and find a way forward without ruining the program.

So your question was Sheryl's question?

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you were following up on Sheryl's question?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a first. (Laughter.)

Q We're a friendly paper, too. (Laughter.)

Mr. President, you've often used the phrase "stand up, stand down," to describe your policy when it comes to troop withdrawals from Iraq -- as Iraqi troops are trained and take over the fight, American troops will come home. The Pentagon now says they've trained 294,000 Iraqi troops and expect to complete their program of training 325,000 by the end of the year, but American troops aren't coming home, and there are more there now than there were previously. Is the goal post moving, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. The enemy is changing tactics, and we're adapting. That's what's happening. I asked General Casey today, have you got what you need? He said, yes, I've got what I need.

We all want the troops to come home as quickly as possible. But they'll be coming home when our commanders say the Iraqi government is capable of defending itself and sustaining itself and is governing itself. And, you know, I was hoping we would have -- be able to -- hopefully, Casey would come and say, you know, Mr. President, there's a chance to have fewer troops there. It looked like that might be the case -- until the violence started rising in Baghdad, and it spiked in June and July, as you know -- or increased in June and July.

And so they've got a plan now, they've adapted. The enemy moves; we'll help the Iraqis move. So they're building a berm around the city to make it harder for people to come in with explosive devices, for example. They're working different neighborhoods inside

of Baghdad to collect guns and bring people to detention. They've got a "clear, build and hold" strategy.

The reason why there are not fewer troops there, but are more -- you're right, it's gone from 135,000 to about 147,000, I think, or 140,000 something troops is because George Casey felt he needed them to help the Iraqis achieve their objective.

And that's the way I will continue to conduct the war. I'll listen to generals. Maybe it's not the politically expedient thing to do, is to increase troops coming into an election, but we just can't -- you can't make decisions based upon politics about how to win a war. And the fundamental question you have to ask -- and Martha knows what I'm about to say -- is: Can the President trust his commanders on the ground to tell him what is necessary? That's really one of the questions.

In other words, if you say, I'm going to rely upon their judgment, the next question is, how good is their judgment; or is my judgment good enough to figure out whether or not they know what they're doing? And I'm going to tell you I've got great confidence in General John Abizaid and General George Casey. These are extraordinary men who understand the difficulties of the task, and understand there is a delicate relationship between self-sufficiency on the Iraqis' part, and U.S. presence.

And this is not a science, but an art form in a way, to try to make sure that a unity government is able to defend itself, and at the same time not be totally reliant upon coalition forces to do the job for them. And the issue is complicated by the fact that there are still al Qaeda or Saddam remnants or militias that are still violent. And so to answer your question, the policy still holds. The "stand up, stand down" still holds, and so does the policy of me listening to our commanders to give me the judgment necessary for troop levels.

Richard, and then Allen.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Earlier this week, you told a group of journalists that you thought the idea of sending special forces to Pakistan to hunt down bin Laden was a strategy that would not work.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Now, recently you've also --

THE PRESIDENT: Because, first of all, Pakistan is a sovereign nation.

Q Well, recently you've also described bin Laden as a sort of modern day Hitler or Mussolini. And I'm wondering why, if you can explain why you think it's a bad idea to send more resources to hunt down bin Laden, wherever he is?

THE PRESIDENT: We are, Richard. Thank you. Thanks for asking the question. They were asking me about somebody's report, well, special forces here -- Pakistan -- if he is in Pakistan, as this person thought he might be, who is asking the question -- Pakistan is a sovereign nation. In order for us to send thousands of troops into a sovereign nation, we've got to be invited by the government of Pakistan.

Secondly, the best way to find somebody who is hiding is to enhance your intelligence and to spend the resources necessary to do that; then when you find him, you bring him to justice. And there is a kind of an urban myth here in Washington about how this administration hasn't stayed focused on Osama bin Laden. Forget it. It's convenient throw-away lines when people say that. We have been on the hunt, and we'll stay on the hunt until we bring him to justice, and we're doing it in a smart fashion, Richard. We are. And I look forward to talking to President Musharraf.

Look, he doesn't like al Qaeda. They tried to kill him. And we've had a good record of bringing people to justice inside of Pakistan, because the Paks are in the lead. They know the stakes about dealing with a violent form of ideological extremists. And so we will continue on the hunt. And we've been effective about bringing to justice most of those who planned and plotted the 9/11 attacks, and we've still got a lot of pressure on them. The best way to protect the homeland is to stay on the offense and keep pressure on them.

Last question. Allen.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. It was reported earlier this week that in a meeting with conservative journalists, you said you'd seen changes in the culture, you referred to it as a Third Awakening. I wonder if you could tell us about what you meant by that, what led you to that conclusion? And do you see any contradictory evidence in the culture?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I said -- Mike, thanks. I was just speculating that the culture might be changing, and I was talking about when you're involved with making decisions of historic nature, you won't be around to see the effects of your decisions. And I said that when I work the ropelines, a lot of people come and say, Mr. President, I'm praying for you -- a lot. As a matter of fact, it seems like a lot more now than when I was working ropelines in 1994. And I asked them -- I was asking their opinion about whether or not

there was a Third Awakening, I called it.

I'd just read a book on Abraham Lincoln, and his presidency was right around the time of what they called the Second Awakening, and I was curious to know whether or not these smart people felt like there was any historical parallels. I also said that I had run for office the first time to change a culture -- Herman and Hutch remember me saying, you know, the culture that said, if it feels good, do it, and, if you've got a problem, blame somebody else -- to helping to work change a culture in which each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. In other words, ushering in a responsibility era. And I reminded people that responsibility means if you're a father, love your child; if you're corporate America, be honest with the taxpayers; if you're a citizen of this country, love your neighbor.

And so I was wondering out loud with them. It seems like to me that something is happening in the religious life of America. But I'm not a very good focus group, either. I'm encapsulated here. But I'm able to see a lot of people, and from my perspective, people are coming to say, I'm praying for you. And it's an uplifting part of being the President; it inspires me. And I'm grateful that a fellow citizen would say a prayer for me and Laura.

Anyway, thank you all very much.

END

12:14 P.M. EDT

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McCathran, Ellen W.

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[Press.Releases@WhiteHouse.Gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2006 7:01 PM
To: McCathran, Ellen W.
Subject: PRESS SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2006

PRESS SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

Intown Travel Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP
TV Corr & Crew: CBS
Print: Cox News
Radio: AURN
Magazine Photo: Newsweek
Independent Pool: C-SPAN

8:00 am INTOWN TRAVEL POOL gathers in the Press Pool Trailer

NO PUBLIC EVENTS

Briefing Schedule:

**9:30 am: Gaggle by the Press Secretary in the White House Conference
Center Briefing Room**

**12:30 pm: Briefing by the Press Secretary in the White House Conference
Center Briefing Room**

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9/18/2006

McCathran, Ellen W.

From: Eckert, Ellen E.
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 3:40 PM
Subject: press brief on President's trip to UNGA

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2006

PRESS BRIEFING
ON PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN
61ST UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BY
SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Via Conference Call

1:35 P.M. EDT

MR. JONES: Good afternoon, everybody, on this lovely Friday. This is Frederick Jones, spokesman for the National Security Council. We have with us today two senior administration officials who will talk about the President's travels to the U.N. General Assembly coming up next week. I know you'll be interested in those who officials are -- I'll tell you after we've finished our official portion.

If we could, gentlemen, please feel free to start, and then we'll take your questions after a short opening.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks very much, Frederick. I think we should start out with what the general themes of the President's visit to the U.N. General Assembly will be this year. Essentially, it is -- the whole visit is structured to show that the freedom agenda remains central for us, and the U.S. is engaged around the world to support people yearning to be free.

Because they know that freedom will defeat them, terrorists, tyrants and traitors to humanity are doing all they can to stop the expansion of freedom. The Middle East is the central battleground and the President will describe his vision as a positive vision for that region, in very clear terms. And while military and police activities are needed against terrorists, the ultimate weapons are

9/18/2006

justice, freedom and opportunity. So the President's side events and bilateral meetings will demonstrate America's determination to promote these goals.

I think that you all have the schedule for the week ahead. The President's activities will start with him making remarks at a conference that the First Lady has organized on global literacy. It's the first White House Conference on Global Literacy. She's got First Ladies and education experts from countries all over the globe attending that, and the President is going to drop by to re-emphasize the importance that literacy has, particularly in people's ability to achieve strong economies and prosperity.

He will have a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Malaysia. This is important, aside from the substance of what they will discuss, I think to demonstrate Malaysia is a democratic country with a moderate form of Islamic government and the idea here is Malaysia is a very good demonstration of how Islam and democracy are fully compatible concepts.

The President will meet with the President of El Salvador also on Monday. Again, they have -- you know, obviously, there are bilateral and regional issues to discuss, as well as El Salvador has been one of our allies in the Middle East, as well. But part of what comes through from that meeting I think is the fact that if you think back 20 years, El Salvador was a country that was torn by factional strife, there were death squads, it was an insurgency, lots of violence and a lot of people saying it was impossible to have democracy in a place like that. And flash forward to the last 10 or 15 years, and you've had a very successful democratic country where people who were former combatants have managed to reintegrate into what is a very prosperous, successful society.

The President also will be meeting with the President of Honduras, which again has gone through experience of a transition from military dictatorship to democracy in much the same period as El Salvador did. Again, there are regional issues that are likely to be discussed at that occasion.

The President will meet also with the President of Tanzania. Tanzania is -- their President was democratically elected. It's an emerging democracy in Africa, but there are serious concerns about terrorists using its terrain. And so the President will engage with President Kikwete on the challenges of fighting terrorism in East Africa.

We will have -- then on Tuesday, the President will meet with President Chirac of France. We would anticipate them discussing a series of issues related to the Middle East and surrounds, namely

Lebanon, Sudan, Darfur, and, of course, Israel, Palestine -- Palestinian issues.

The President will then go to the U.N., itself, and meet with the President of the General Assembly, President Khalifa. She is -- her election as President of the General Assembly is significant because she's the first Muslim woman to have served in that post. And she comes very well prepared, having been in a leadership role in her government in Bahrain.

He also will pay a similar courtesy call on Secretary General Annan. And as you can anticipate, they have many items to discuss on the agenda, including Lebanon, Iran, Sudan, and an overall vigorous, international effort against terrorism.

The President will then make his remarks at the General Assembly. And I think he's got -- will be making a speech that focuses on all of these themes, but in particular will lay out his positive vision for the Middle East, the bright, democratic future that we see for the Middle East in contra-distinction to some who have almost a backward-looking vision for that region.

He will then participate in the Secretary General's luncheon, meet with the President of Iraq. And I think you can imagine the issues on the agenda there -- again, how to strengthen democratic institutions in a country that is weak. This is an overall theme as you look back -- if you want to look at the speech, when we look at the Middle East, you see countries that are either under the rule of regimes that deprive people of their freedom, or you have a number of countries that have freedom but are extremely weak in their democratic institutions.

So I think the President is laying out a vision there and it then comes through in these bilaterals, where he will be making clear how both -- what we need to do to work together to help countries -- to help people in countries that don't have freedom achieve their freedom, and second, how we work together with the democratically-elected governments in places like Iraq and Lebanon, and so on, to help them strengthen their democratic institutions, so that they can be successful free countries.

And then, finally, the President will return to Washington on Wednesday.

I think, unless my colleague wants to add to that, maybe that's enough at the top, and we could go to questions, Frederick.

Q Hi, it's Olivier. I have a couple questions for you, actually. One is, the First Lady's office said yesterday that they were not -- the United States is not especially optimistic about

getting a resolution on Burma at the U.N. What's the status of that? Second, today in the press conference the President seemed to suggest for the first time that actually the United Nations should impose a peacekeeping force for Darfur over the objections of Sudan. And is that something that we're going to hear again at the United Nations? Is there a formal proposal? I guess those are the two questions I have.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay, first, well, on Burma, the First Lady will be holding a side event focused on Burma where we'll have experts coming in to discuss the problem in Burma, and so on. So this should get a lot of people together and increase the energy on that.

I think, in terms of U.N. action on Burma, the first step is to get Burma on the agenda of the Security Council. So before you start talking about a resolution, step one is you have to get at least nine countries to vote in favor of putting it on the agenda. And we're reasonably optimistic that that will happen in the not-too-distant future. So exactly what the sequence of that will be, I wouldn't want to predict -- in other words, whether it will get on the agenda before next week or not, I'm not sure. But that's moving forward at the same time we're taking the measures that the First Lady has put together to increase international attention on Burma. So we're positive on that topic.

And what was the second part?

Q The Sudan comment from the press conference today, the idea of imposing a U.N. --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The resolution that passed in the Security Council a week or so ago authorizes or establishes an expanded security force for -- or expansion of the existing security force so that it would be able to cover Darfur, as well. In other words, they already have a U.N. mission in Sudan for the north-south matter, and this would go on.

So the question -- there's been this issue of whether or not you have the consent or the agreement of the government. The way we understand the resolution that was passed, it isn't dependent on the agreement of the government of Sudan, and we think we ought to move forward to get that force up and running as quickly as possible. Now, obviously, ideally and in practical terms, you'd much rather do it with the consent, rather than over the opposition of the government, so those efforts continue, as well. But I think that's what the President is reflecting, is that we don't see the government of Sudan having a veto power over whether the U.N. puts a peacekeeping force there, or not. The Security Council has authorized it, and we want to see that move forward as rapidly as

possible.

I should mention, too, that I -- before we go on with the question, that I missed an event. The version of the schedule I had didn't have it on it, but it's an important one, it's a democracy roundtable that the President will be participating in. Last year, he met with approximately 25 other democratic leaders. And in that event, actually, they launched the U.N. Democracy Fund. But mostly it was -- what they did was discussed how countries, democratic countries, both old, established democracies and new democracies could work together to help promote and strengthen democracy, the institutions of democracy around the world.

This year, he will be meeting again with a similar group, but the focus -- they will also have in the room several NGOs from around the world who are active in democracy work and will be focusing on not only what NGOs do to help promote democracy, but what obstacles are being placed in their way, and then what democratic countries working together can do to support them. So that's another important event that I wanted to mention.

I'll now move on to the question. I'm sorry for the interruption.

MR. JONES: And that's on Tuesday.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Correct.

Q When you mentioned his meeting with President Chirac, you said Middle East, Lebanon, Sudan, Darfur, Israel, Palestinian -- but you didn't mention Iran. Is he going to be discussing the possibility of crafting an Iran resolution at that time? Is he meeting with other leaders on the Iran issue, in the democracy roundtable or in these other fora? Is he going to be talking about the U.S.'s efforts to promote human rights, democracy in Iran?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, in the democracy roundtable, this is more broadly what's going on around the world, so it's not focused so much on particular countries. But, yes, in his overall speech, his main address in the General Assembly, Iran will certainly be one of the factors there. Again, the positive future we see for the region and how Iran can be part of it, and calling attention to the negative features of the current situation in Iran.

When I mentioned the list of things he was likely to be discussing with President Chirac, I didn't mean to imply that that was exclusive -- (laughter) -- it was exemplary and I would certainly imagine that Iran would be a topic in that conversation, as well as in others that he would have at the U.N. And does my colleague want to add? He's more expert on this than I.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, I would have just said exactly what you said. You can get a little taste from David Ignatius' column, which came out I think today, of the President's view of Iran and the potential of the Iranian people to be part of the positive vision that he has for the region.

Q Hi, there. I just wanted to follow on the Iran issue. I'm actually wondering if there are going to be any low-level, even, contacts with Iran? I know there are no presidential-level contacts or any kind of bilaterals, but is there going to be anything on the staff level, anything directly with Iran membership?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That's a long answer. No. (Laughter.) There won't be any contacts. We don't have contacts with the Iranians, and we're not going to have it, unless and until they suspend their enrichment-related activities. If you want me to go on at length about that I can, but basically, no.

Q And do you know anything more about this Tuesday event, because I do not see it on the week ahead, and we can get back to Fred on that if that's necessary.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The Tuesday event, the democracy roundtable?

Q The roundtable, yes.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't know why it isn't on the week ahead. That is what I was going on, and I say, it's my event, so -- (laughter) -- I said, gee, why isn't it there? But it is -- as I was describing it, we want to keep -- it's part of the idea that we want to keep the focus on the Freedom Agenda worldwide. The Freedom Agenda isn't something just for the Middle East. The Middle East is kind of the main battleground in that struggle right now, but it's only because -- I think if you go back a couple of years, when the President made his speech at the National Endowment for Democracy, and said, look, for 60 years we sort of exempted the Middle East from the same efforts we were making elsewhere in the world, and it's no longer exempt. So in one sense it's maybe a little bit behind where we were in the rest of the world, but what we're doing there and elsewhere is fully consistent.

So I think what you'll have is, these will be heads of state or government from -- I think the total is about 25 democratic countries, as I said, both established democracies and newer democracies. And then we've got, I think, five or so non-governmental organizations from all around the world that are working in this field -- organizations that do things like train election observers, or defend people who are being persecuted for political

views, or in one case, work with governments, as well as with NGOs to try to get legal regimes in place that make the work of NGOs easier, rather than having obstructions to them.

So the idea there is simply -- this is really bringing it down to the nuts and bolts level, saying, okay, how are we doing around the world, do we have problems. And we know that many of the NGOs are having increasing problems with repressive regimes trying to cut them down, and the real question is then, what can democratic governments do to help those organizations and the people they represent to be successful. But it's a kind of open effort now to -- it's an open discussion of how we can make those efforts go forward.

Q Hi. We've heard the President talk at length about his vision of spreading democracy to the Middle East. Are there any new twists this time, or is it pretty much the same or an extension of what he said before?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Why don't I let my colleague comment on that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Oh, okay. I think that many of the elements you will have heard before, but this is the attempt of the President to put forth a kind of a comprehensive vision, tying together all of the different arenas in the Middle East and explaining how he understands them to be -- to fit together. As my colleague said, we have two kinds of states in the region. We've got those that are -- those in which there's an absence of freedom, and we have those in which, I would just say, weak states in which we need to help them build the institutions of freedom. And the three cases would be Iraq, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority -- of states that need our assistance.

And I think, in a way, he'll be saying, you know, the international community needs to come forward to help Middle Easterners realize their desire for freedom. He would say that very much what we are seeing across the region is a struggle for freedom. There are states, like Iran and Syria, that sponsor terrorism and they do so in order to stop the region from reforming and allowing people to realize their desire. He'll have in each case -- Iraq, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority -- I think he will have very concrete suggestions about the path forward for realizing his vision of freedom and role that the international community can play in that.

I don't want to preview for you right now exactly the steps that he's going to suggest, but in terms of what is going to be new, I think that's where you should be looking. You should be looking at the comprehensive vision, and then the immediate steps.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I want to jump back in, too, and make a comment. Earlier I declined to predict, on Burma, whether we'd have the First Lady's conference first, or get it on the Security Council agenda first. I now can predict it, because I'm told that the Security Council just agreed to put it on the agenda, by 10 votes in favor. So there has been some progress as we were on the phone here.

Q Yes, hello, thank you very much. Any mention or focus on North Korea? There doesn't seem to be much talk of Asia in what you've mentioned so far.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Obviously, North Korea is another state where, to say the least, freedom is lacking. But I think the focus of the President's speech is going to be on the Middle East, as we mentioned.

I would not be at all surprised if the topic of North Korea comes up in some of the bilateral discussions that he has. Certainly it's one of the topics that will undoubtedly come up in his discussions with the Secretary General. But we don't have meetings that are focused on that, on that topic.

Q Okay.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Can I just jump in here and say that it's a pleasure, Guy Dinmore, to hear your voice, because you caused me an enormous amount of pain with those stories about that guy, Nahavandian. I don't know if you remember that.

Q Oh, yes, indeed. (Laughter.)

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes. I spent hours and hours trying to track all that down. It was horrible. And everyone -- I kept saying this is wrong, this is a lie. And people kept saying, no, he's actually quite a reputable reporter. (Laughter.)

Q Yes, he had lunch just around the corner from the White House. You could have joined him there.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: But, no, we don't do that. (Laughter.)

Q Apparently not. You're missing a lot.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay.

Q Yes, thank you. Two questions. One, going back to Darfur, there had been, I guess at the time of Assistant Secretary Frazer's trip to Khartoum, the idea that -- or the offer from the President to

even meet with the President of Sudan to work out the entry of a U.N. force into Darfur, and, obviously, Sudan is not on the bilateral agenda. I'm wondering what happened to that, if anything.

And the second question, the official who spoke to us originally, talking about the President's remarks at the General Assembly, said that those remarks -- that the President would lay out his democratic vision in contra-distinction to some who have an almost backward-looking vision. And I would like to be clear on -- to who that might refer to?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think I was the one who made that statement. First, on Darfur, without going into -- let's just say that it would be one thing to say if another leader was agreeable to a peacekeeping force and had made clear that they were prepared to do that, then there would be a reason to sit down and talk about the modalities of accomplishing that. But when you've got somebody who is saying that they're totally opposed to it, there's not much to discuss, in terms of modalities. So whatever signals you were getting during Assistant Secretary Frazer's visit along those lines I think were on the premise that there would be some -- a willingness or agreement to work with and facilitate the deployment of the force, rather than a publicly stated opposition to it.

On the dark vision, I think you can look at the terrorists and those who support them, who have a vision of a Middle East with women oppressed and cut out of life, with non-democratic governments keeping people under their thumbs. It's the vision of the jihadists. It's the vision of almost a medieval approach to life. Whereas I think the President's vision is very positive.

I think it's the difference between saying -- there are those who want to say Islam requires that kind of backward-looking government, and people like the President who say, look, we've seen in other parts of the world -- I mentioned Malaysia, one of the countries that he's going to be meeting with -- that the concepts of democracy, social justice, prosperity and so on are not incompatible with the religion or with the culture of the Middle East, or for that matter, other parts of the world. So it's in that sense the distinction to that negative vision.

Q Yes, I was going to ask about North Korea, but while I'm on here, is the President planning any events for Wednesday morning? And, particularly, will he join his wife for the Clinton Global Initiative?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't think we have anything to announce at this point, David. We will have to wait and see about Wednesday and any additional -- anything additional to add to the schedule.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And you said North Korea, again.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think he's good with the earlier answer.

Q Good afternoon. I have a question on the succession of Kofi Annan. There's been this recent straw poll, yesterday. How is your interpretation of the result of this straw poll, and how do we go next from there?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think there have been two straw polls now. And I should just make clear, this is an innovation that is sort of designed to help move the process along, but the straw poll is not binding, it's not indicative that everybody who might be considered as a candidate has been considered in the straw poll. It's been expressing -- what it is, is members of the Security Council expressing encouragement or discouragement to people who have announced themselves as candidates, or who have been nominated by governments as candidates for the job. And so the results are what they are. But it's a dynamic process and this will go on for some time before we get down to cases, I think, in terms of an election.

As you know, the General Assembly has to vote on the nomination after the Security Council finishes with it, as well, so there's a lot of steps left here.

Q What kind of criteria would the United States want to be applied to a future Security General?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think -- and I believe the President and Ambassador Bolton have both made comments on this -- our sense is we should be looking for the best possible person. We know there's a tradition of regional rotations, and so on, and we don't want to exclude anyone from any part of the world. But our sense is, we shouldn't be looking at it as an entitlement for our group or another, but rather as, let's look for the absolutely strongest possible leader.

People have pluses and minuses in any kind of job. But I think what you're looking for in this is somebody who has strong political leadership skills, strong management skills, people who can bring people together. You can guess as well as I, but we don't have some kind of bright line litmus test of somebody has to have a particular position on this issue or that. Our sense is we're looking for, like, the best athlete for the job. And there's some very good candidates out there participating.

Q You don't have somebody you're rooting for, so to say.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, we don't have anyone we're championing at this point. And it's early in the process still. We'll see how that develops over the rest of the year, rest of the summer.

Q Good afternoon. The President talked today about being concerned about any stalling, with respect to Iran and actions to try to stop their escalation of any nuclear capabilities. Should we expect the President in his remarks to urge the member nations to do something more explicitly? Is he going to call out Iran in a more provocative way than we've heard of late?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I wouldn't expect that. I mean, obviously, things are fluid. And we could see changes in this fluid situation before the speech is given. But at this point, I wouldn't expect it. The goal of the speech is really to lay out the broad vision and not to get down into the nitty gritty of discussions between the United States, the EU3, the Russians and the Chinese and that sort of thing about the nuclear issue.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think I might mention, too, when you were asking about, well, is this topic or that topic going to be covered in his speech, unlike last year where we had -- where the President was speaking at a high level event that was put on immediately prior to the General Assembly, the speech time was doubled from the norm. We're back to the norm this year, so we're at 15 minutes. And I think what we're signaling to you here is that instead of doing a kind of laundry list of every issue around the world and making a comment about it, that it's a speech that's focused on a comprehensive vision for the Middle East.

And so the fact that he doesn't delve into particulars, whether it's Iran or North Korea, on what's going on in the Security Council or something, obviously that doesn't mean we don't think those issues are important, or that we're not going to be working, continuing to work on them behind the scenes. But it's a different style of speechmaking than the one where you go through and say, in this country we want to move this resolution; in that country we want to follow up with this force recruitment or whatever. Those, as my colleague says, those are the kind of details that will be there to implement the broader vision.

Q Should we expect him to have any discussion of how America is viewed by other countries around the world, given the debate that's happening with how detainees are treated, and so forth?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, I don't think that -- I wouldn't anticipate him getting into those kinds of issues.

Q Thank you very much.

Q Will there be discussion of -- not within the President's speech, but by administration officials, about further sanctions or hardening of sanctions against North Korea? And, also, is there any discussion going on about the U.S. withholding its U.N. dues to express dissatisfaction with reforms going on in the United Nations?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: On the first one, let me just say that generally, I think you've seen the pattern of how -- and I think we've been pretty successful in the U.N. over the last few weeks and months on a number of fronts, whether it's Sudan, North Korea, and others -- Lebanon -- of getting resolutions passed with large majorities, calling on other countries to do things that the international community thinks they need to do to either end threats to peace and security or prevent them from coming to pass.

I think if you go back a few years, the President was pretty clear that the credibility of the U.N., though, is following through on things like that, and that means the credibility of the member states. So we're following in each of these cases a very sort of methodical approach -- let's first get everybody to agree what the benchmarks are that we're saying to one of these regimes that they need to do, and next you give them some pretty clear guidance as to what is likely to befall them if they don't do it, and then you need to follow through and take steps on that.

So you could look at each one of these and see where we are in the progression, but it's not a case of jumping from right into sanctions or other measures like that until we've worked through the process.

On U.N. reform, I think our sense is that there have been important accomplishments on the reform agenda, not nearly as much as we would have liked to have seen, or still want to see. I think, as Secretary Rice and Ambassador Bolton have made clear, that reform isn't a one-time deal, it's a sort of never-ending evolution -- or revolution.

We've seen some real progress, particularly on accountability issues during the year, getting an ethics office set up, getting standards for receipt of gifts and financial disclosure by U.N. employees, much better accounting systems, the independent oversight board. So from the standpoint of being able to assure that -- or guard against corruption, guard against conflict of interest, those kinds of issues, we've actually had pretty good success thus far.

Where we've still got room to move forward, and we want to see some real movement forward, is in going through and reviewing what is

it that the U.N. is doing. We've got mandates, as they call them, that have been given by the General Assembly to the U.N. staff over a period of 60 years; some of them have produced offices and bureaus and programs that are exceptionally effective and useful and a good expenditure of money. Others may have been a good thing to do at one time, but have outlived their usefulness. Others are very, very -- are not producing good results.

So our desire is not that we have some particular ones that we want to -- you know, we want to favor this, and be against that, but it's to go through a process of really evaluating these and trying to be sure that resources get put where they're going to do -- where they're going to be used effectively and to good ends, and that ones that are not good uses of money, that those monies get shifted over to places where they'll be better spent.

On that, we've made some progress in the sense that the staff at least has started to inventory what mandates were out there. People didn't even know -- this was one of the problems we were up against -- they didn't know what it was the U.N. was doing, or what the employees were charged with doing. So at least the knowledge base has improved over the last year. But we have had a lot of resistance to moving forward on that.

Withholding of U.N. dues is a big step. I think you know there are different legislative proposals on that, on the Hill. It's certainly a step you can't rule out if there isn't any forward movement on reform, but our interest here is in getting reform, not in what the consequences would be if we're not successful in that effort.

Q Thank you. Hello. If you can tolerate one more question on Iran, though not on the President's speech on Tuesday. I'm interested, sir, in the degree to which the President hopes to use his bilaterals and his group meetings at the U.N. to advance the diplomatic track toward sanctions on Iran, an effort that seems to be flagging in Europe and certainly with the Russians and the Chinese. How much is he going to focus on that, and what does he plan to say and do about it next week?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It will be -- certainly when he meets with President Chirac he will discuss it. When he meets with any of the major players, Iran is always going to be near the top of the list because it's a priority of American foreign policy. As I said before, it's not the focus of what he's doing up there next week, but it is a priority right now and so it's bound to be up at the top of the agenda in a number of his discussions.

I'd take issue a little bit with the way you describe it as -- the effort as flagging. It's not quite moving, I think, as fast as

we had hoped a week or two ago, when we were suggesting that we'd have a sanctions resolution before the UNGA event, but I think that all of the major players are talking about sanctions within short order. That effort hasn't stopped -- none of those who have been saying that they were for sanctions are now against them. So I really think that the coalition is holding together. So the question -- there are some differences about timing and approach, and that sort of thing, but nothing major that really requires attention.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Let me jump in on this, too, not on the particular topic of Iran. But one thing I wanted to mention is that, unlike last year, where you had virtually all of the heads of state from around the world, or heads of government in New York, this year actually it's much, much fewer countries who are represented at that level. Many of the key players in some of these dramas we've been discussing are not there -- in other words, the President's counterpart is not there, but they will be represented at the foreign minister level or other levels like that, and you're going to have Secretary Rice and other senior officials in New York for a couple of weeks. There will be a lot of activities at their level that may not be going on at the presidential level, simply because the appropriate counterpart at his level isn't in New York this year.

Q Thank you. And, briefly, just to follow, does the President see next week as an opportunity to make any gains diplomatically on moving toward the sanctions through his efforts next week?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think just as my colleague said, the number of people that he'll be meeting with who are key players on the issue is limited. Off the top of my head, I can only think of President Chirac. And so I wouldn't expect the President to be seeking to deliver that next week.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Or at least not in New York.
(Laughter.)

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Not in New York. Yes, I was --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: -- phone calls or via a ministers --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And through other channels of our diplomacy is through the State Department, but this isn't the focus of the President's activities.

Q Thank you.

Q I think the question, actually, just got answered, because

I was going to ask if there would be some kind of five-plus-one level, high-level, that is presidential level meeting up there. But I guess from what you're saying is that that is not planned. And if it does happen, it would happen maybe at the diplomatic, State Department-type level, if I understood you correctly.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Exactly.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And that's simply because if you look at the participants, most of the -- with the exception of President Chirac, I don't think any of the other P5 members are there at the head of the state level.

Q Yes, but do -- I realize it's just not your --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Or the plus one. (Laughter.)

Q Right, right. But I realize it's not your -- technically not your bailiwick, but you do expect it to happen then at the, say at the foreign ministries/Department level?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I would put that to the State Department to see what they've got planned.

Q Sure, sure.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, Secretary Rice has a very full program that's -- she's going to be there more time than the President will be. And so I think you can ask them and get an idea of just how broad our reach is going to be.

Q Sure, that's fine. Okay, thanks.

Q I'm sorry for the repetition. Same thing with Iran and North Korea. I was going to ask about the P5 plus one meeting. And I think you just said the foreign minister level would be meeting on North Korea. Can you elaborate any on the meetings that would happen on North Korea or Iran, maybe, lower level?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think we've already kind of covered --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, and steered you over to the State Department, too, so we don't want to be trying to brief on the meetings that the Secretary will be having.

Q Okay, thank you.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, another bite at the apple.

Q Exactly. Well, nice -- nice work on that Burma vote.
(Laughter.) That's how our --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, since you asked, we thought we better move fast here.

Q And I appreciate that. But in the meantime, something else has happened, which is that Mark Malloch Brown has come out and said that the United Nations is going to ask the African Union to extend its presence in Darfur through to the end of the year, and that there will not be a blue-helmeted U.N. force of an extended nature there before then. Is that your understanding, as well? Is that satisfactory?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I had not heard his statement.

Q Well, it happened --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Minutes ago.

Q -- about a minute ago.

MR. JONES: A little difficult for us to spot in the breaking news.

Q Fred, you need to time these better.

MR. JONES: I'm sorry our speakers are focused so intently on the questions here that they have not had an opportunity to glance at the computers. But we'll see if we can have something for you on that later.

Q That would be great. Thanks, Fred.

MR. JONES: Okay, getting ready to wrap up here. Let's take one more.

OPERATOR: There are no more questions in the queue right now.

MR. JONES: There you go. How about that for timing. All right, thank you, everyone. I'd like to end the formal portion of this briefing now, if I could.

END

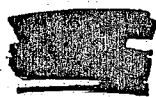
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Appointment Time : 08:15 Appointment Thru Time : 23:59
Appointment Location : WH Appointment Room : ROOSEVELT
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Access Control Officer : USR2L96

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Appointment With : POTUS Total Number of Visitors : 5
Appointment Date : 09/15/2006 Appointment Thru Date : 09/15/2006
Appointment Time : 11:50 Appointment Thru Time : 23:59
Appointment Location : WH Appointment Room : WW
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Appointment With : POTUS Total Number of Visitors : 1
Appointment Date : 09/15/2006 Appointment Thru Date : 09/15/2006
Appointment Time : 18:30 Appointment Thru Time : 23:59
Appointment Location : WH Appointment Room : MOVIE THEA
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Appointment With : POTUS Total Number of Visitors : 1
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Appointment Time : 18:30 Appointment Thru Time : 23:59
Appointment Location : WH Appointment Room : MOVIE THEA
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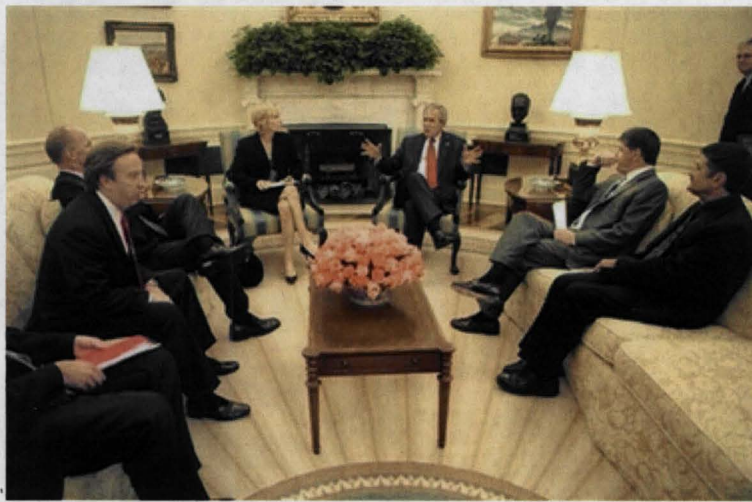
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In this photo released by the White House, [President Bush](#) meets with radio talk show hosts in the Oval Office on Sept. 15, 2006, in Washington, including from left, Mike Gallagher, Neal Boortz, Laura Ingraham., Sean Hannity and Michael Medved. (AP Photo/The White House, Eric Draper)

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