FOIA Marker

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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

Kavanaugh, Brett - Chron Files Received in the Office of Records Management (ORM)

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	17	19	4	2	4189	88388	6672	6063

Folder Title:

[May 2006] [709659 Folder 4] [1]

Withdrawn/Redacted Material
The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Barcode Scanning Sheet	709659 [1 PAGE RELEASED IN PART ON PRA RE-REVIEW 10/05/2023 MAC]	1	11/01/2006	b6;
002	Invitation	[Invitation]	1	07/08/2006	PRM;
003	Letter	[Letter] [2 PAGES RELEASED IN PART ON PRA RE-REVIEW 10/05/2023 MAC] - To: POTUS - From: James Robison	2	05/11/2006	b6;
004	Letter	[Letter] [with attachment] - To: POTUS - From: Julie McPhillips	4	05/14/2006	b6;
005	CD	We Embrace Your Move, Darrell Evans, Wow Worship	1	N.D.	Transferred
006	Letter	[Thank You] - To: POTUS - From: Hunt Downer	2	05/01/2006	b6;

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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:
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FOLDER TITLE:
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FRC ID:
4189

RESTRICTION CODES

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

Deed of Gift Restrictions

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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

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This document was prepared on Monday, October 23, 2023

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2017-0345-F
2014-0072-F 2

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007	Envelope	[Envelope] - To: POTUS - From: Downer	1	05/16/2006	b6;
008	Card	[Thank You] - To: POTUS - From: Erika Putiusky	2	N.D.	b6;
009	Business Card	Hands On	1	N.D.	b6;
010	Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: Brent Warr	2	N.D.	b6;
011	Email	[No subject] [1 PAGE RELEASED IN WHOLE ON PRA RE-REVIEW 10/05/2023 MAC] - To: Blake Gottesman - From: Ken Mehlman	1	05/12/2006	
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014	Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: J. Michael Luttig	3	05/10/2006	b6;
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GRIER_J

709659

FG006-01

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: CTRACK

Staff Name: BRETT KAVANAUGH

Document Date:

Correspondent: BRETT KAVANAUGH

Subject/Description: BRETT KAVANAUGH CHRON FILES FOR MAY 06 WITH VARIOUS DATES AND VARIOUS SUBJECTS: FOLDER #1 (b)(6) MARRIAGE MAY 11 06 - JAMES ROBISON - MC LEAN, VA - OVAL OFFICE - FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE - COMMUNICATION WITH GENERAL PUBLIC MAY 02 06 - MICHAEL HASKINS - ANNAP ...

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This Document was withdrawn on 4/28/2014 by RAF

James Robison

May 11, 2006

President George W. Bush
Attn: Karen Keller
Via Facsimile: (202) 456-0200

Dear Mr. President:

Please allow me to share what I believe to be a very serious matter. During each visit with you in the Oval Office, you have asked me to relay concerns directly to you. Although in my opinion you have the most dedicated, intelligent and hardest-working staff that has ever filled the White House and Executive offices, I believe a problem has developed. To take a quote from *Cool Hand Luke*, "What we have here is a failure to communicate." I'm referring to clear communication with the general public.

Polls matter little, but perception greatly matters. I know many respected leaders around the world and I have never met anyone with greater character strengths than you have. You are the man for this hour, and contrary to what some may think, you *can* communicate very effectively. No one wins people like you do in a close setting. When you bear your heart, we hear your deep convictions and recognize the courage and compassion from which they spring. The problem is, America no longer hears that. They hear what the media wants them to hear. They often see you appearing to be uneasy, especially under press scrutiny where you know the reports will be misrepresented and biased.

Clear, unedited communication is imperative for the sake of the country you were elected to lead—and you know you were called to do it, as you shared with me. In one of our first meetings before you were elected, you said, "I feel my country will need me at this time." Well, sir, you were right. But not only does the country need you, the world needs you. We need to hear your heart, and we're not hearing it—not clearly.

You are being misrepresented and misunderstood because you and your advisers have not found the most appropriate and effective means to communicate directly with the population. The Roosevelt "fireside chats" worked when a country was devastated by depression and a sense of hopelessness. We need to hear from our leader—from a true father figure. You have all the qualifications, all of the character strengths to lead us. But the nation no longer knows George W. Bush. I find myself saying, "What happened to the man I know, the man who held up the bullhorn and said, 'We hear you, and pretty soon, they're going to hear you!'"

Sir, let me say it as loudly and clearly as I can, **"We can't hear *you* anymore!"**

I once shared with you that I wouldn't give 10 cents for you being President if you didn't change this nation for the better; and you said, "That's the only reason I'm going to Washington." I believe that's the absolute truth. For whatever reason, however, the people are not hearing you, and we're losing the necessary momentum.

Reagan won the Cold War, not merely because of his oratorical skills, but because he communicated openly and consistently with the world—even when his staff and advisers disagreed. He knew he was right when he said, "Tear down this wall," when he referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," and when he held to the potential "Star Wars" defense.

(b)(6)

Your convictions are still right, and you know it—but the often "tried and proven" political approaches will not work in this hour. You must answer the serious and sincere questions that your own constituents and the general population are honestly asking. You should openly face your enemies and love them enough to answer even their sometimes cruel and skeptical questions. But you must answer them directly to the American people without the discretion of the elite media to redefine what you are saying. We need a new way to hear our President in what amounts to a "fireside chat."

Somehow, you need to invite the American family into a family room setting or wherever best determined and give us the comforting assurance, security and resolve necessary to overcome the challenges we now face. Somehow, America has to hear you the way some of us who love you so much and recognize your character strengths have been privileged to hear. I am praying for God to show you and your truly qualified advisers how to find the right setting and the best way to communicate with those you have been chosen to lead.

Please forgive me if I have been too direct. I think you know my heart. I'm convinced I know yours, but I don't think the nation does. This must be corrected…for the sake of freedom and a secure future.

Sincerely yours,

James Robison

/cs



2 MAY 2006

Dear President Bush,

I want to thank you on behalf of the Naval Academy Class of 1966 for your very kind and heartwarming letter. Our Fortieth reunion will have even greater significance thanks to your words. We will have a special page in our yearbook for your letter so all our classmates can take renewed pride in what they done in service to our country.

I also want to let you know that so many of us are praying for your success in the face of some very daunting and quite complex challenges. We have confidence in you, your integrity, and your unwavering commitment to the welfare of our nation. Our country is in good hands with you at the helm. May GOD bless you and your family.

Very respectfully,

Michael D Haskins

VADM USN (Ret)

USNA Distinguished Leadership Chair

February 21, 2006

I send greetings to those gathered for the 40th reunion of the United States Naval Academy Class of 1966.

For more than 150 years, graduates of the United States Naval Academy have built a tradition of honorable and faithful service to our country. In the 40 years since you last trained as midshipmen, you have served our Nation with valor and distinction as part of the greatest force for freedom in the history of the world. You continue to set a lasting example of courage for the classes that follow, and America is grateful for your brave service and sacrifice.

I hope this reunion provides a chance for you to renew friendships, share memories, and celebrate achievements. Laura and I send our best wishes for an enjoyable event. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

HARBOR BEACH
FORT LAUDERDALE RESORT & SPA
Marriott

John B. Hearns
Area General Manager

May 8, 2006

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our Chairman, Mr. Bill Marriott, & the entire staff here at the Harbor Beach Resort & Spa, I would like to extend to you a very heartfelt welcome.

We are honored to have you as our guest this evening and sincerely hope that your brief visit to Fort Lauderdale is both productive and enjoyable.

We stand ready to make your visit memorable in all ways possible.

At your Service,

John B. Hearns
Area General Manager
Marriott's Harbor Beach Resort and Spa

Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa
3030 Holiday Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-2414
Direct (954) 766 6150 **Cellular** (954) 232 1127 **Facsimile** (954) 847 4775
john.hearns@marriott.com

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CD
We Embrace Your
Move.
Darrell Evans, WOW
Worship.

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
CD	We Embrace Your Move, Darrell Evans, Wow Worship	1	N.D.	Transferred

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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:
Kavanaugh, Brett - Chron Files Received in the Office of Records Management (ORM)

FOLDER TITLE:
[May 2006] [709659 Folder 4] [1]

FRC ID:
4189

OA Num.:
6063

NARA Num.:
6672

FOIA IDs and Segments:
2017-0345-F
2014-0072-F

RESTRICTION CODES

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Letter	[Thank You] - To: POTUS - From: Hunt Downer	2	05/01/2006	P6/b6;

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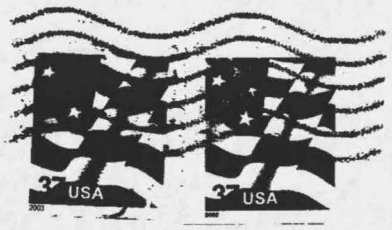
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DONNER
P.O. BOX 4081
HOUMA, LA 70361

BATON ROUGE
LA 708 1 L
16 MAY 2005 PM



POTUS - By Hand

Ambassador Donald Ensenat

(b)(6)

Mr. President,

I wanted to thank you again for taking the time out to visit Hands On Gulf Coast while in Mississippi. It was such an honour to have you here to speak with the volunteers. I had such an amazing time touring and chatting with you that afternoon! Hopefully, our paths will cross again in the future. Best of luck to you.

Always,
Erika Patrick

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Marshall Jenkins Photography

Mississippi Marshall

Hands On
Be The Change. Volunteer. | GULF COAST

Erika Putinsky - Director

Phone 228-257-6094
Fax 586-314-2999
info@handsongulfcoast.org
www.HandsOnGulfCoast.org

(b)(6)

eputinsky@handsonnetwork.org

A Disaster Response Project of

Hands On
NETWORK

POTUS has not seen; Major Worr passed it directly to me. -James

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: Brent Warr	2	N.D.	P2; P5; P6/b6;

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DER BOTSCHAFTER
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
THE AMBASSADOR
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Washington, May 10, 2006

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor of presenting to you the enclosed letter from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Angela Merkel. A courtesy translation is also enclosed.

I would like to use this occasion to emphasize how much the recent visit of the Chancellor has again enhanced the spirit of close cooperation and friendship between Germany and the United States. Allow me to express the gratitude of the Chancellor's delegation for the very warm hospitality and the special atmosphere in the White House.

On a personal note, since I so recently became Germany's Ambassador to the US, this visit was especially important to me, so that I may start to help build upon the positive cooperation that has marked the German-American relationship for so many decades. I very much look forward to contributing to this special and essential relationship.

Respectfully yours,

Klaus Scharioth

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
Fax: (202) 456-1210

4645 Reservoir Road, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20007
e-mail: L@WASH.auswaertiges-amt.de
Tel: (202) 298-4201 Fax: (202) 298-4270
homepage: www.germany.info

BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
DIE BUNDESKANZLERIN

Berlin, den 3. Mai 2006

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident,

Lieber George,

nach meinem Rückkehr aus den USA möchte ich Dir für den herzlichen Empfang im Weißen Haus danken. Ganz besonders habe ich mich über die familiäre Abendessen in den Privaträumen der Weißen Hauses gefreut.

Unsere Gespräche, auch mit kleinem Kreis, bestätigen die Breite und Tiefe der deutsch-amerikanischen Beziehungen. Ich freue mich sehr, wie groß unsere Übereinstimmung in den zentralen internationalen Fragen ist.

Ich freue mich auf unser Wiedersehen im Juli in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern!

Viele Grüße, auch an Deine Frau,

Angela Merkel

Records

Translation

The Federal Republic of Germany
The Federal Chancellor

May 9, 2006

(m.p.) Dear Mr. President, dear George.

Now that I have returned home from the US I would like to thank you for your warm hospitality in the White House. I was especially happy to be able to have dinner with you in a personal setting in the White House private rooms.

Our talks, including our private discussions, confirm the intensity and depth of German-American relations. I am very pleased that we agreed so closely on the central international issues.

I am looking forward to meeting you again in July in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania!

Best wishes, also to your wife,

/s/Angela Merkel

Gottesman, Blake

From: Ken Mehlman - Chairman's Office [KMehlman@georgewbush.com]

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2006 3:45 PM

To: Gottesman, Blake

I am going to fax you an article from Vanity Fair on my cousin, and the President's friend, David Sapperstein. The boss may be interested. What's the best number?

BK—

Okay by you?

7 Records

Y N

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
310 FIRST STREET, S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

(202) 863-8822 PHONE
(202) 863-8774 FAX

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Blake Gottesman

FROM: Ken Mehlman

COMPANY:

DATE: 5/12/06

FAX NUMBER: 202-456-0200

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER: 2

RE:

YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

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202-365-8871

TO: David Landon

LETTERS

inspirational. I hope that Tom Ford's first stellar contribution will not be his last. I am definitely saving my issue as a collectible item.

NATALIA YEGOROVA
Portland, Oregon

VANITY FAIR, you are my favorite indulgence, but right now I feel downright dirty. The theme of Tom Ford's Hollywood can be summed up in four words: disembodied female body parts. The cover shot of Ford literally inhaling a naked, 20-year-old Keira Knightley makes me want to take a shower. The photographs of Jason Schwartzman, Topher Grace, and Garth Fisher are disappointing and misogynistic.

This month's issue is not an artful, erotic celebration of the female form but a paean to disposable tits and ass.

EMILY BURRILL
Stanford, California

AS A LATE-TWENTYSOMETHING homosexual male, I am no prude. I find beauty and art in the most unlikely of places, including depictions of nudity and sexuality. Sadly, and for the first time, I am more than underwhelmed with this portfolio, which seemed to do what Hollywood does best: ask women to take their clothes off while the men in suits look on.

Certainly there are some gorgeous photographs, including the ones of Anne Hathaway, Peter Sarsgaard, Jake Gyllenhaal, and Heath Ledger. But it would have been nice to see Hollywood not act like Hollywood, especially in a magazine as elegant and classy as *Vanity Fair*.

Please don't get the wrong idea. I love Tom Ford. His instincts generally serve him well, but I believe he was more than out of his element for this issue. I also find it strange that a prominent homosexual male such as Tom Ford would contribute to a system that has, for the most part, only marginalized and manipulated women into revealing poses under the guise of high art and fashion. None of

POSTSCRIPT



BIG LOVE, BIGGER HOUSE
Suzanne and David Saperstein with their children, photographed by Helmut Newton, 2002.

David and Suzanne Saperstein, builders of L.A.'s most over-the-top house, a $100 million, 45,000-square-foot homage to the royal homes of France, raised a lot of eyebrows when they told their life story to Matt Tyrnauer in April 2002 ("Versailles on the Pacific"). Suzanne, a native of Sweden, who, at the time of the article, was probably the world's No. 1 consumer of haute couture and 18th-century furniture, told Tyrnauer about her 40-carat yellow diamond, Louis XV (or possibly XVI) inkwell, and "straight-out copy of Marie Antoinette's bed—I mean, as close a copy as you can make, considering hers was not scaled to a king-size." She also revealed how she and David—who made his billions from the helicopter traffic-reporting service Metro Networks—had met: "On an airplane at Logan Airport." David, who had been seated next to Suzanne, confessed to her that he didn't like European women because they were hairy. Suzanne disproved the postulate by grabbing David's hand and running it "all the way up my leg from my calf up my thigh."

Flash forward to July 2005 and another airplane, a Gulfstream IV owned by the Sapersteins. After landing in Houston, where the couple has a home, David led Suzanne off the aircraft to a conference room inside the airport, at which point she was served with divorce papers. Suzanne reboarded the plane and continued on to Europe as planned. Divorce proceedings are under way in Texas. If the 45-year-old mother of three gets half of his assets, she will have the largest divorce settlement in history. (The biggest to date was the $890 million Adnan Khashoggi paid his ex-wife in 1982.) David is reported to have left her for Hillevi Svensson, the Saperstein children's 32-year-old nanny, also from Sweden. A friend of the Sapersteins' was quoted in the *New York Post* as saying that Svensson resembles a younger Suzanne, adding that Suzanne was close to Hillevi. Mr. Saperstein declined to comment, though a friend of the former couple told *V.F.* that Suzanne, who breeds horses and rides dressage, has moved to the family's 140-acre ranch with a 14,800-square-foot Mission-style house in Simi Valley, north of L.A.

Nearly seven years after contributing editor Buzz Bissinger wrote about the saga of convicted cop killer Mumia Abu-Jamal ("The Famous and the Dead," August 1999), the case continues.

Sentenced to death by a jury in Philadelphia in 1982 after being found guilty of the brutal killing of police officer Daniel Faulkner, Abu-Jamal became a celebrity poster boy for those opposed to the death penalty. The case attracted worldwide attention. Over the years, scores of prominent Hollywood actors, leading writers, musicians, and politicians from as far away as Germany and France have insisted Abu-Jamal was unfairly convicted despite devastating eyewitness testimony against him at his original trial. And while the case attracts some press today, Abu-Jamal fever appears to have peaked. Now the case resembles an American version of Charles Dickens's Jarndyce versus Jarndyce: appeal upon appeal, brief upon brief ad infinitum.

In 2001—19 years after Abu-Jamal's original sentencing—a federal judge, in response to a habeas petition filed by Abu-Jamal and his lawyers, threw out his death sentence but upheld his murder conviction, keeping him in prison for life. (Both sides have appealed this decision.) Last December, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals granted Abu-Jamal, 52, the right to appeal his conviction on several separate issues, including whether or not he was denied his constitutional rights in the prosecution's trial summation and whether there was any judicial bias during post-conviction proceedings. Any finding by the court is at least a year away.

As for the principals involved in the case, the judge who presided over the original trial, Albert Sabo, and who became a lightning rod for criticism by Abu-Jamal supporters for being pro-prosecution and pro-police, has died. Abu-Jamal continues to spend his days in a Pennsylvania prison, frequently writing columns for his "Mumia Abu-Jamal's Freedom Journal" Web site. And Maureen Faulkner, who, nearing 50, has lived half her life without her husband, resides in California and continues to push for Abu-Jamal's execution.



JUSTICE DECRIED
Abu-Jamal, escorted to a hearing at which he requested a retrial, 1995

Ken Mehlman thought you might want to see this.

From *Vanity Fair* Magazine
May, 2006

POSTSCRIPT
David and Suzanne Saperstein, builders of L.A.'s most over-the-top house, a $100 million, 45,000-square-foot homage to the royal homes of France, raised a lot of eyebrows when they told their life story to Matt Tyrnauer in April 2002 ("Versailles on the Pacific"). Suzanne, a native of Sweden, who, at the time of the article, was probably the world's No. 1 consumer of haute couture and 18th-century furniture, told Tyrnauer about her 40-carat yellow diamond, Louis XV (or possibly XVI) inkwell, and "straight-out copy of Marie Antoinette's bed-I mean, as close a copy as you can make, considering hers was not scaled to a king-size." She also revealed how she and David-who made his billions from the helicopter traffic-reporting service Metro Networks-had met: "On an airplane at Logan Airport." David, who had been seated next to Suzanne, confessed to her that he didn't like European women because they were hairy. Suzanne disproved the postulate by grabbing David's hand and running it "all the way up my leg from my calf up my thigh."

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Records

J.E. ROBERT
COMPANIES

1650 Tysons Blvd., Suite 1600
McLean, VA 22102

tel 703.714.8024
fax 703.714.8103

Joseph E. Robert, Jr.
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

May 9, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President and Mrs. Bush,

I was deeply honored to be Secretary Condoleezza Rice's guest at your recent luncheon for President Hu Jintao and Madam Liu Yongqing. It was a wonderful affair.

I had made Secretary Rice aware that if the lunch went past 2:30 pm, I would have to depart to meet a most important obligation; the reading of "A Fly Went By" to my 5 year old son Luke's class at 3:00 pm.

Knowing how important reading to children is to you, I was confident you would understand, and hope you will accept my humble apologies.

The luncheon was a wonderful chance to engage the Chinese Foreign Minister on the subject of educating poor, rural Chinese children, as the Foreign Minister and I were seated at the same table.

My very best regards,

Joseph E. Robert, Jr.

Tarrytown United Methodist Church

PO Box 5566 Austin, Texas 78763-5566 Phone: 512-472-3111 Fax: 512-476-4301 www.tarrytownumc.org

James L. Mayfield
Senior Pastor

Ann Beaty
Associate Pastor
Director of
Spiritual Nurture Ministries

Ron Campbell
Associate Pastor
Director of
Evangelism and Missions

Barry Fulton
Associate Pastor
Director of Music
Adult Education

Helen Almanza
Associate Pastor
Director of
Legacies of Faith

Vicki Aycock
Business Administrator

Liby Beck
Director of Lay Ministries

Olivia Donelson
Director of
Senior Adult Ministries

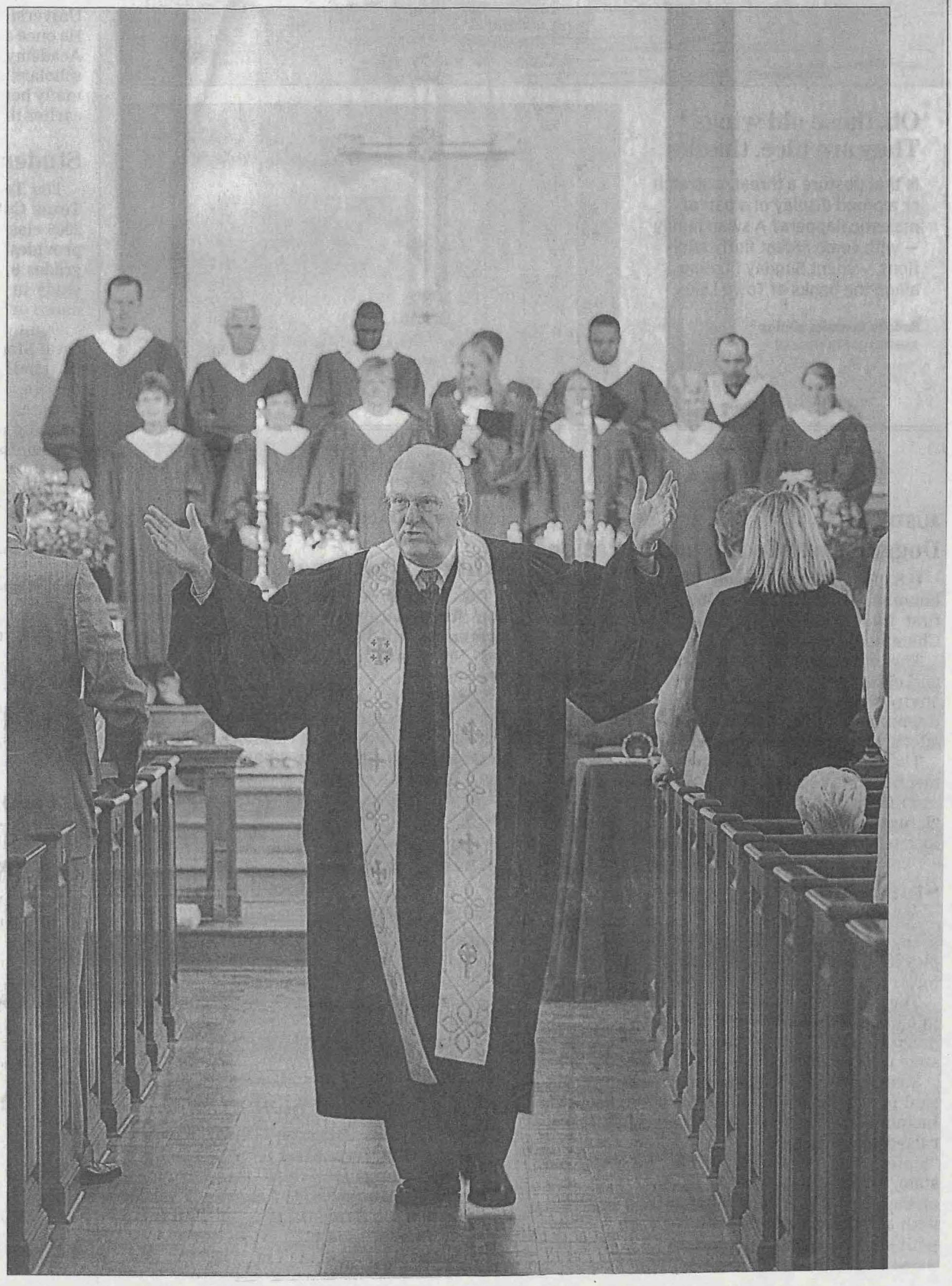
Tanya Huber
Director of
Children's Ministries

Patricia (Trish) Perdue
Director of
Youth Ministries

Dear President & Mrs Bush,

Several people in the congregation suggested I send the enclosed article to you — saying you might be interested.

Jim



Preservation Copy



Deborah Cannon AMERICAN-STATESMAN

The Rev. Jim Mayfield, 70, has guided the flock at Austin's Tarrytown United Methodist Church for 18 years. His retirement plans: writing, visiting family and helping solve what he sees as an education crisis.

New path awaits 'citywide pastor'

Retiring minister tended to powerful, helped religions find common ground

By Eileen E. Flynn
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

The Rev. Jim Mayfield, pastor of Tarrytown United Methodist Church, has ministered to powerful politicians, including President Bush, fought for literacy and racial equality, and worked to build unity among Austin's varied faith traditions. He's won praise from peers and affection from the Tarrytown flock he's tended for 18 years.

But as he preaches his last sermons and prepares for retirement June 4, the 70-year-old minister is far from complacent.

On a recent morning at his church, Mayfield reflected on the work still left to do and the problems he never managed to solve.

After traveling with his wife, Rita, and visiting their grandchildren, Mayfield plans to devote time to tackling what he sees as the state's education crisis, writing for the church and continuing to conduct seminars on how to be an effective pastor.

His interfaith leadership gave him a kind of "citywide pastor" status, said Patrick Flood, former director of Austin Metropolitan Ministries, the organization that spawned Austin Area

See **RETIRE**, B5

RETIRE: Pastor sees political

Continued from B1

Interreligious Ministries.

"Mayfield would have that capacity to be able to relate to everyone on an individual basis," Flood said. "He was always very generous, very available."

The Rev. John McMullen, a longtime friend, said he always admired Mayfield's dedication to interfaith relations.

"He saw something he felt needed doing and really threw himself into it," McMullen said.

Imam Safdar Razi, who leads the Islamic Ahlul Bayt Association in Northwest Austin, remembers the important role Interreligious Ministries played in supporting Muslims after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Under Mayfield's leadership, the organization gathered clerics from different religions to pray on the steps of the Texas Capitol and "helped the Muslim communities a lot by letting people understand that Muslims also condemn the acts of terror and terrorism," Razi said.

Despite his ability to form friendships and expand the membership of Interreligious Ministries, Mayfield sees the hostilities between liberal and conservative Christians as the "great failure" of his tenure as the organization's president.

"The great divide in Austin right now is between the moderate-to-liberal group and the conservative group," he said. "We've got to learn how to be civil and respectful of our differences so we can cooperate on those things which we hold in common and which are for the common good."

If you go

What: Celebrating the Ministry of Jim Mayfield

When: Services at 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday; reception 3 to 5 p.m., church fellowship hall

Where: Tarrytown United Methodist Church, 2601 Exposition Blvd.

Information: 472-3111, www.tarrytownumc.org

Mayfield jokes that he learned early in his career the definition of mediator: "he who gets rocks thrown at him by both sides."

In the mid-1960s, after he was assigned to a church in Mathis, a small farming town near Corpus Christi, he mediated the entrenched racial tension between Anglo and Hispanic residents and teamed with ministers of other faiths, including Lutheran and Catholic pastors, to educate migrant workers.

His career would take him to Port Lavaca and then Austin, where he served as pastor of Northwest Hills United Methodist Church and as superintendent for the regional church body's Austin district before settling in at Tarrytown.

Over the years, he employed the writing skills he honed as a University of Texas undergraduate by developing study material for Methodist youths, penning books and composing poems for congregations.

He gained international media attention as the affluent congregation's leader in 2000, when then-Gov. George W. Bush ran for the Oval Office.

"We were one of the few churches that have had both the governor (Rick Perry) and the president-elect in the congregation at the same time," Mayfield said.

Reporters from around the globe wanted him to reveal personal information about Bush.

Though Mayfield has publicly supported causes that run counter to the platforms of his high-profile parishioners — he famously disagreed with Bush on the state hate-crimes bill and has spoken out against giving students vouchers to attend religious schools — he has managed to sidestep political tension.

Mayfield said he remembers thinking: "I don't view Governor Bush as Governor Bush. I view him as George Bush, child of God."

Mayfield was also careful not to indulge the opposite extreme: publicly excoriating the politicians and business leaders while they sat captive in his pews.

His first duty is as a pastor, Mayfield says, and as such he would talk to individuals about ethical concerns "in private,



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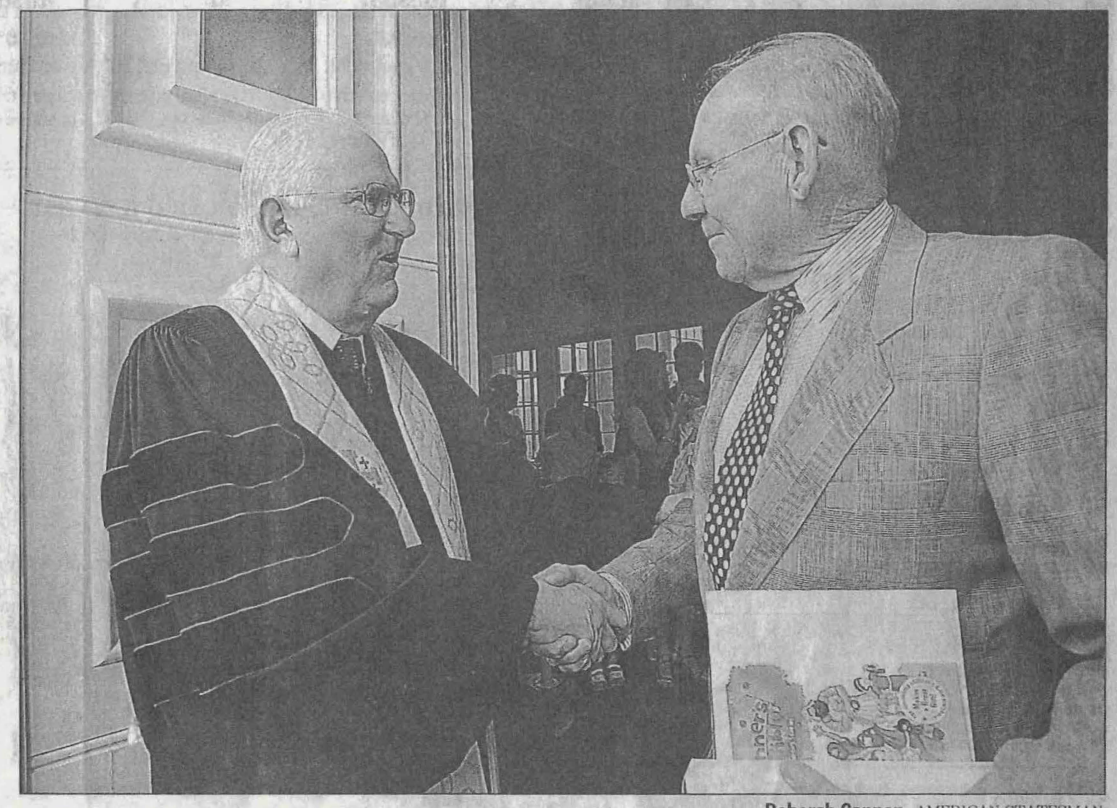
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Deborah Cannon AMERICAN-STATESMAN

For the Rev. Jim Mayfield, parishioners such as Wayne Ward are no less important than Gov. Rick Perry and President Bush, who both have attended the church in the Tarrytown area of West Austin.

where they can talk back, rather than in the sanctuary, where they can't."

Bush called Mayfield "a good friend who faithfully led the congregation at Tarrytown United Methodist Church. Laura and I were enriched by his sermons and are grateful for his friendship."

As far as political affiliation goes, Mayfield's an independent. It suits his desire to find common ground amid the increasing polarizing rhetoric he hears from both parties.

Improving the state's public education system and cutting the dropout rate (which he believes is underreported), Mayfield said, cannot get lost in a storm of politics. It will take greater accountability in the schools and more resources, he said.

As he leaves Tarrytown, Mayfield the mediator is ready to take the rocks again.

eflynn@statesman.com; 445-3812

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: Roy J. Ramthun	1	05/17/2006	P6/b6;

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COLLECTION:
Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:
Kavanaugh, Brett - Chron Files Received in the Office of Records Management (ORM)

FOLDER TITLE:
[May 2006] [709659 Folder 4] [1]

FRC ID:
4189

OA Num.:
6063

NARA Num.:
6672

FOIA IDs and Segments:
2017-0345-F
2014-0072-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 advise 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).

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Jim Towey

Faith Based Initiatives

Document Origin
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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: Jim Towey	1	05/19/2006	P6/b6;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: J. Michael Luttig	3	05/10/2006	P6/b6;

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SERIES:
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This Document was withdrawn on 4/28/2014 by RAF

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
7/4/06

May 29, 2006

Dear President and Mrs. Bush

I have just returned from a few days with Gaby and Mercer and the PACA group in Charleston. I am honored, thrilled and so appreciative to have been appointed to this distinguished committee. It's an accomplished and interesting group and I so look forward to my involvement with the Kennedy Center.

This appointment is certainly adding a new and exciting dimension to my life and I believe that I will be able to make a significant contribution. I sincerely thank you for affording me this opportunity. Please know that I will always

Please send to Mrs. Bush

Original sent to Mrs Bush 7-6-06 BD

be extremely grateful to both of you and I won't forget the support that I have received from Gaby and Mercer.

MR. President, please know that there are so many of us who respect your strength and fine leadership.

Most sincerely,

Brittain Bardes Cudlip

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President and Mrs. George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington,
D.C. 20500

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LOUISE W. FLANAGAN

Ag 23, 2006

Dear President Bush,

On behalf of myself and my husband, I write to thank you for the hospitality I and the other members of the Federal Judges Association and our spouses enjoyed at the recent White House Gathering. The many courtesies extended to us during the visit were greatly appreciated.

It was a great privilege to hear from your remarks, including on the war on terrorism. Thank you very much for giving us the benefit of your words on this critically important subject, and for honoring us with your time and presence on the occasion of the Sixth Quadrennial Conference in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

Louise Flanagan



The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
20500

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Dear Mr. President! —

You spend your life thanking others.... When is the last time someone thanked you? Not just a passing thank you, but a thank you from the pit of their soul? Well, I want to thank you! Thank you for being a man of God. Thanks for the courage + intestinal fortitude to lead this country during these challenging times. I've never been more prouder to put on my uniform and serve under your command for this great nation + world. Many second guess the war, they have the right. But don't waver, what we are doing is right for the world and right + just in the eyes of God. Stay the course my brother, my favorite President. You epitomise being a great American -- thank you - don't change -- lead the way!!

(b)(6)

CMSgt Mark Long



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Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

Monday, June 19, 2006
Volume 42—Number 24
Pages 1117–1167

GFL/WW BRETT KAVANAUGH

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENT

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(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on June 16, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for $80.00 per year ($137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for $93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is $3.00 ($3.75 for foreign mailing).

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There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents.*

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Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Chile

June 8, 2006

Presidents George W. Bush and Michelle Bachelet underscored the increasingly strong and close ties that Chile and the United States enjoy, based on common values and objectives, including the promotion of democracy, development, economic growth, hemispheric integration, trade liberalization, international security, and combating terrorism. They recognized the link among development, peace, security, human rights, and social justice. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the bilateral relationship based on these principles and to deepen the two nations' ongoing strategic dialogue on democracy and regional development, and other key shared priorities.

They agreed that Chile and the United States, like all the peoples of the Americas, are united by ties, and by common aspirations, expressed in the founding Charter of the Organization of American States, which says: "The historic mission of America is to offer man a land of liberty and a favorable environment for the development of his personality and the realization of his just aspirations."

They agreed that the important measure of governments is whether they are committed in principle and in practice to the core conditions of democracy: to govern justly, to advance economic freedom, and to invest in their people. They agreed that a consensus in support of democratic governance unites our hemisphere and is enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which declares that the people of our hemisphere have a right to democracy and that their governments have a responsibility to protect and promote that right, and that democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the people of the Americas.

They agreed that the success of democracy in the Americas has produced increased expectations, and that in free societies citizens rightly insist that people should not go hungry, that every child deserves the opportunity for a decent education, and that hard work and initiative should be rewarded. The Presidents agreed that if democracy is to answer popular demands for development, if it is to help reduce poverty and inequality, then democratic institutions must be effective and responsive; that institutions like political parties, the police, and an independent judiciary must be representative of and accountable to the people; that institutions must be reformed to fight corruption and to function transparently; and that every democracy must have the strength to create opportunities for improved health and education for all of its citizens. For men and women who are committed to freedom, who work hard and play by the rules, democratic governments must eliminate policies and practices that interfere with opportunities to rise as high as their talents will take them. That is how we define social justice.

The Presidents recognized that the democracies of the Americas have now forged a consensus on the vital link between security and prosperity as well as democracy and prosperity. They agreed that in a hemisphere that is becoming more democratic, the central security issue in the Americas is no longer one of state-to-state or military-to-military security, but how we face nontraditional threats such as organized crime, terrorism, delinquency, gangs, natural disasters, pandemics, weapons proliferation, and drug trafficking.

The Presidents agreed to work to make democracy a force for inclusion and empowerment, for effective institutions that will better people's lives in real ways, especially for the most disadvantaged and marginalized,

while also recognizing that political and economic freedoms are not quick fixes, but are in fact lasting fixes.

They agreed to partner globally through the U.N. Democracy Fund and the Community of Democracies to support specific democracy promotion initiatives, particularly those aimed at improving democratic governance and strengthening institutions, promoting civil society participation, and sharing regional and trans-regional best practices and experiences. They further agreed to work together to support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the OAS and the Secretary-General to respond effectively to threats to democracy in the region and to help countries implement the provisions of the Charter.

The Presidents also reaffirmed their commitment to working to ensure a successful and ambitious conclusion of the Doha Round in the near future. In this context, President Bachelet welcomed President Bush's reaffirmation that the United States is ready to eliminate all tariffs, subsidies, and other barriers to the free flow of goods and services as other nations do the same.

Reaffirming the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), they acknowledged that the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare. The leaders agreed to promote innovation and technological advancement by providing strong intellectual property protection and effective enforcement of intellectual property rights.

The Presidents acknowledged that economic growth and job creation are vital to reducing poverty and inequality and advancing human development, and that free trade is the key and their vision remains a Free Trade Area of the Americas, in the world's largest free trade community. The Presidents noted the importance of continuing efforts to promote trade liberalization and reaffirmed their commitment to the FTAA. They also observed that efforts toward economic and trade integration in the Americas are important tools for the promotion of prosperity, stability, and democracy in the region. They welcomed agreement by the IMF and World Bank to provide 100 percent debt relief for the poorest countries in our hemisphere. In addition, they agreed that the Inter-American Development Bank also should act to reduce the debt burden on the poorest countries. Collectively, these actions will ensure that more resources are available to invest in health and education.

The Presidents expressed their commitment to ensure that political stability, democracy, and development take firm root in Haiti. They welcomed, as hemispheric partners in this effort to support democracy, the successful outcome of presidential and legislative elections held in February and April and expressed support for the new Government's efforts to respond to urgent social needs while aiming to achieve sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

The Presidents noted with satisfaction the activities of our continuing cooperation in the areas of economic growth, trade, cultural, people-to-people, and military exchanges. The Presidents agreed to intensively explore opportunities for people-to-people exchanges, including graduate doctoral education and English language education.

The Presidents reaffirmed their friendship and their commitment to further strengthening ties between the two nations to foster freedom, democracy, security, and prosperity.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 9. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 10, 2006

Good morning. This was a good week for the cause of freedom. On Wednesday night in Iraq, U.S. military forces killed the terrorist Zarqawi.

The killing of Zarqawi is an important victory in the global war on terror. This Jordanian-born terrorist was the operational commander of Al Qaida in Iraq. He led a

S. 2803 / Public Law 109–236
Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006

Manfredi Piccolomini,
of New York, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012, vice Andrew Ladis, term expired.

Thomas N. Taylor,
of Kansas, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2012, vice Daniel Simberloff, term expired.

Richard F. Thompson,
of California, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2012, vice Mark S. Wrighton, term expired.

Kenneth R. Weinstein,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012, vice David Hertz, term expired.

Jay Winik,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012, vice Nathan O. Hatch, term expired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Counselor to the President Dan Bartlett

Released June 13

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to Memphis, Tennessee

Fact sheet: Camp David Meetings: Building on Progress in Iraq

Released June 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the President's upcoming visit to Europe

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1953, H.R. 3829, H.R. 5401, S. 1235, S. 193, and S. 2803

Fact sheet: President Signs Emergency Funding Bill

Fact sheet: The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument: A Commitment to Good Stewardship of Our Natural Resources

Released June 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 15

H.R. 1953 / Public Law 109–230
San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin Act

H.R. 3829 / Public Law 109–231
To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Muskegee, Oklahoma, as the Jack C. Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

H.R. 5401 / Public Law 109–232
Lewis and Clark Commemorative Coin Correction Act

S. 1235 / Public Law 109–233
Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006

H.R. 4939 / Public Law 109–234
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006

S. 193 / Public Law 109–235
Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005

campaign of car bombings and kidnappings and suicide attacks that has taken the lives of many American forces, international aid workers, and thousands of innocent Iraqis. Zarqawi had a long history of murder and bloodshed. Before September the 11th, 2001, he ran a camp in Afghanistan that trained terrorists—until coalition forces destroyed that camp. He fled to Iraq, where he received medical care and set up operations with terrorist associates.

After the fall of Saddam, Zarqawi went underground and declared his allegiance to Usama bin Laden, who called him the "Prince of Al Qaida in Iraq" and instructed terrorists around the world to "listen to him and obey him." Zarqawi personally beheaded American hostages and other civilians in Iraq. He masterminded the destruction of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, and he was responsible for the assassination of an American diplomat in Jordan and the bombing of hotels in Amman. His goals in Iraq were clear: He wanted to stop the rise of democracy, drive coalition forces out, incite a civil war, and turn that country into a safe haven from which Al Qaida could launch new attacks on America and other free nations. Instead, Zarqawi died in the free and democratic Iraq that he fought so hard to prevent, and the world is better off because this violent man will never kill again.

Iraqis can be justly proud of their new Government and its early steps to improve their security. And Americans can be enormously proud of the men and women of our Armed Forces and the intelligence officers who support them. In the past 3 years, our troops have overthrown a cruel dictator, fought the terrorists and insurgents house to house, and trained Iraqi forces to defend their new democracy. All the while, they stayed on the trail of this brutal terrorist, persevering through years of near misses and false leads and never giving up hope. This week, they got their man. And all Americans are grateful for their remarkable achievement.

Zarqawi is dead, but the difficult and necessary mission in Iraq continues. In the weeks ahead, violence in Iraq may escalate. The terrorists and insurgents will seek to prove that they can carry on without Zarqawi. And coalition and Iraqi forces are seizing this moment to strike the enemies of freedom in Iraq at this time of uncertainty for their cause. The work ahead will require more sacrifice and the continued patience of the American people.

I'm encouraged by Prime Minister Maliki's determination to defeat our common enemies and bring security and rule of law to all Iraqis. This week, he took another major step toward this objective when he completed the formation of his Cabinet—naming a new Minister of Defense, a new Minister of the Interior, and a new Minister of State for National Security. These new leaders will help the Government address its top priorities: reconciliation, reconstruction, and putting an end to the kidnappings, beheadings, and suicide bombings.

As they pursue these goals, they will have America's full support. On Monday, I will convene my national security team and other key members of my Cabinet at Camp David to discuss the way ahead in Iraq. On Tuesday, Iraq's new Ambassador to the United States will join us, and we will have a teleconference discussion with Prime Minister Maliki and members of his Cabinet. Together we will determine how to best deploy America's resources in Iraq and achieve our shared goal of an Iraq that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself.

There's still difficult work ahead in Iraq. Yet this week, the ideology of terror has suffered a severe blow: Al Qaida has lost its leader in Iraq; the Iraqi people have completed a democratic government that is determined to defend them; and freedom has achieved a great victory in the heart of the Middle East.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:45 p.m. on June 8 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 9 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, who was killed in Baquba, Iraq, on June 7; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; former President Saddam Hussein, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki,

Minister of Defense Abd al-Qadir al-Mufriji, Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bulani, and Minister of State for National Security Shirwan al-Waili of Iraq; and Iraq's Ambassador to the U.S. Samir Shakir al-Sumaydi. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Interagency Team on Iraq in Camp David, Maryland

June 12, 2006

I want to thank Generals Abizaid and Casey, as well as Ambassador Khalilzad for the last—for the briefing for the last 3 hours. I thought your assessment of the situation in Iraq was very realistic. I think your recommendations to us on how to win in Iraq, to have an Iraq that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself are—your recommendations are valid.

I look forward to continuing to visit with you later on this afternoon about how we can help this new Government succeed. Zal, you've been—I just want to thank you all very much for remaining in theater and working as hard as you are. You're making a significant difference.

And again, please give my best congratulations to the troops on the ground for bringing Zarqawi to justice. I fully recognize that's not going to end the war. On the other hand, it was a major blow to Al Qaida and the killers and terrorists that are trying to spread violence and suffering, and stop the emergence of a new democracy.

Zal, we left off where you were talking about the way forward in Iraq and your perception of this new Government.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:33 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command; Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad; and senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, who was killed in Baquba, Iraq, on June 7. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Meetings on Iraq and an Exchange With Reporters in Camp David

June 12, 2006

The President. We just had a meaningful day. We have spent a lot of time talking to our team in Baghdad about the way forward in Iraq. We've spent time talking about the security situation in Iraq and what we intend to do to help the Iraqi Government bring security to neighborhoods in Baghdad and Basra. We talked about the economic situation in Iraq. We talked about the energy situation in Iraq. We talked about a variety of matters with Ambassador Khalilzad and General Casey and General Abizaid.

As you can see, I not only have my national security team here, I've got members of my Cabinet as well. We all agree that we have got to continue to help this new Government move forward. Success in Iraq will depend upon the capacity of the new Government to provide for its people. We recognize that. We're encouraged by the formation of a unity government, and we recognize our responsibilities to help that new Government.

And tomorrow we'll be meeting with the new Government via SVTS, and that will be a very interesting experience for all of us, to be able to talk to our respective counterparts.

The message to the Iraqi Government is, is that we stand with you; that what you're doing is important; that democracy in Iraq is not only important to the 12 million people that went to the polls and their families, but democracy in Iraq is important in the war on terror. It's important that we succeed in Iraq in order to make America more secure and the world a better place.

So I want to thank my Cabinet Secretaries for being with me today, and other members of my team, to really have this very vital and important discussion.

I'll answer a couple of questions.

U.S. Troop Levels in Iraq

Q. You said that you were going to listen to your U.S. commanders on the ground about the troops. And, you know, General Casey has said now that he thinks that gradual U.S. troop reductions could be made in

Stephen S. McMillin,
of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, vice Joel David Kaplan.

Drue Pearce,
of Alaska, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects for the term prescribed by law (new position).

Marc Spitzer,
of Arizona, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2011, vice Nora Mead Brownell, resigned.

Lisa Godbey Wood,
of Georgia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, vice Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., retiring.

Submitted June 16

Mark R. Abbott,
of Oregon, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2012, vice Jane Lubchenco, term expired.

Geoffrey S. Bacino,
of Illinois, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2013, vice Franz S. Leichter, term expired.

Camilla Persson Benbow,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2012, vice Warren M. Washington, term expired.

John T. Bruer,
of Missouri, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2012, vice John A. White, Jr., term expired.

Josiah Bunting III,
of Rhode Island, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012, vice Wright L. Lassiter, Jr., term expired.

Michael V. Dunn,
of Iowa, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring June 19, 2011 (reappointment).

Thomas C. Foley,
of Connecticut, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland.

Patricia D. Galloway,
of Washington, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2012, vice Diana S. Natalicio, term expired.

Jose-Marie Griffiths,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2012, vice Nina V. Fedoroff, term expired.

Mary Haybeck,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012, vice James R. Stoner, Jr., term expired.

Karl Hess,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for the remainder of the term expiring May 10, 2008, vice Delores M. Etter, resigned.

Robert S. Martin,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012, vice Jeffrey D. Wallin, term expired.

Wilfred M. McClay,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012 (reappointment).

Nancy Montanez-Johner,
of Nebraska, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, vice Eric M. Bost.

Nancy Montanez-Johner,
of Nebraska, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice Eric M. Bost.

June 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a swearing-in ceremony for U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab. Then, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he met with Randal McCloy, Jr., the only survivor of a January mining accident in Sago, WV, and his wife, Anna.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

In the evening, on the South Lawn, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Congressional Picnic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Geoffrey S. Bacino to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael V. Dunn to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas C. Foley to be Ambassador to Ireland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Montanez-Johner to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services and a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Humanities: Josiah Bunting III; Mary Habeck; Robert S. Martin; Wilfred M. McClay; Manfredi Piccolomini; Jay Winik; and Kenneth R. Weinstein.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Science Board of the National Science Foundation: Mark R. Abbott; Camilla Persson Benbow; John T. Bruer; Patricia D. Galloway; Jose-Marie Griffiths; Karl Hess; Thomas N. Taylor; and Richard F. Thompson.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation: Janine L. Gauntt; Angela Baraquio Grey; Kelly Perdow; and Daniel C. Wuerffel.

The President announced his intention to designate Jean M. Case as Chairman of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The President announced his intention to designate Daniel Pearson as Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate Shara L. Aranoff as Vice Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

June 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Seattle, WA, where, upon arrival at the Boeing Field/King County International Airport, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Norma McQuiller. He then traveled to Medina, WA, where, at a private residence, he attended a reception for congressional candidate Dave Reichert and the Washington State Republican Party.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Albuquerque, NM, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Patricia Ortiz. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 12

Randall M. Fort,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research), vice Thomas Fingar, resigned.

Margo M. McKay,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, vice Vernon Bernard Parker.

the coming months. So do you agree with this?

The President. Well, as I also said the last time you asked me this question—which was a couple of days ago—that we were going to make sure that we fully understand the Iraqi capability to be able to take the fight to the enemy and secure its country. And the Iraqi Defense Minister is just in office. And General Casey, of course, will be making those assessments, as he told us today via the teleconference—that he will make the proper assessments and come back to us and make recommendations to us.

Whatever we do will be based upon the conditions on the ground. And whatever we do will be toward a strategy of victory. And so this is a process of getting to know the—understand the Iraqi capabilities, particularly the command and control structure, and what we need to do to help them achieve victory.

Abu Musab Al Zarqawi/War on Terror

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the successor to Zarqawi that was named by Al Qaida? And how do you stop an insurgency that is still able to recruit people and continue to threaten attacks?

The President. I think the successor to Zarqawi is going to be on our list to bring to justice.

What was the second part of your question?

Q. How do you stop an insurgency that continues to be able to recruit people and continues to threaten attacks and carry them out?

The President. The best way to win this war against an insurgency is to stand up a unity government which is capable of defending itself but also providing tangible benefits to the people. The Iraqis have got some wonderful assets: They've got energy, which they can use to benefit their people; they're entrepreneurial; they've got a stable currency; they've got a small-business sector that's growing. And, ultimately, the Iraqi people are going to have to make up their mind: Do they want to live in terror, or do they want to live in peace? And the United States and our coalition will help them realize their ambitions if they choose to live in peace and hope, which we believe they will.

Remember, it wasn't all that long ago that 12 million people went to the polls and said, "We want to live in a free society." No question, the fighting is tough. No question, the enemy is violent and mean. But the enemy doesn't stand for anything. They have no message of hope. They have no positive philosophy. All they can do is kill, and hope that the Government splits up or that the American people lose their will. And I keep reminding the American people that the stakes are worth it. It is worth it to help Iraq succeed. It is worth it to have a democracy in the Middle East. It is worth it to show other reformers and people who want to live in a free society what is possible.

Yes.

International Support for Iraq

Q. Are you satisfied with what Iraq's neighbors and the international community are doing to help this new Government, or would you like to see them do more, and what should it be?

The President. Iraq's neighbors ought to do more to help them. And we're constantly working with our friends in the neighborhood to encourage them to support this new democracy. And I recognize that there's some concerns about a Shi'a Prime Minister and a—from different countries where there's Sunni representation, Sunni leadership. But our message is, is that Iraq will show that it's possible for people of all faiths to live together. After all, they've got the most modern Constitution in the history of the Middle East.

We expect our friends who have made commitments, $13 billion, to honor those commitments. Many of those countries are outside of the Middle East. And so we'll continue—we discussed that today, as to how to continue to rally not only the neighborhood, Iraq's neighbors, to the cause of the new democracy, but how to help others who have made a pledge to honor their pledge.

Yes.

Energy/Foreign Sources of Oil

Q. Mr. President, did you talk about oil production and maybe getting it back to pre-war levels, or anything?

The President. We did. We spent a lot of time in talking about energy and oil. The oil belongs to the Iraqi people. It's their asset. It is one of the—the capacity to generate wealth from the ground distinguishes Iraq from Afghanistan, for example. It's something that I view as a very positive part of Iraqi future. And we talked about how to advise the Government to best use that money for the benefit of the people.

Secondly, obviously, we spent time figuring out how to help strategize with the new ministries as to how to get oil production up. And recently, they've had oil production as high as a little over 2 million barrels a day, which is extremely positive. The oil sector is very much like the rest of the infrastructure of Iraq: Saddam Hussein let it deteriorate. There wasn't much reinvestment or not much modernization. After all, he was using the money for his own personal gain, and he wasn't spending the people's money on enhancing the infrastructure. And the oil infrastructure collapsed and deteriorated. And as a result, there's a lot of work that needs to be done on, for example, work-overs—that is, to help oil wells become revitalized, just a standard maintenance procedure. So there's a maintenance program on to help the Iraqi people get their production up.

There's some unbelievably interesting exploration opportunities. And the new Government is going to have to figure out how best to lease the people's lands in a fair way. My own view is, is that the Government ought to use the oil as a way to unite the country and ought to think about having a tangible fund for the people, so the people have faith in central government.

Listen, thank you all for coming today. And tomorrow is going to be a fascinating day, and I'm looking forward to having discussions with our counterparts via SVTS. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad; Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command; Minister of Defense Abd al-Qadir al-Mufriji, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, who was killed in Baquba, Iraq, on June 7. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq in Baghdad, Iraq

June 13, 2006

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for this opportunity to visit with your Cabinet. I have expressed our country's desire to work with you, but I appreciate you recognizing the fact that the future of this country is in your hands. The decisions you and your Cabinet make will be determinate as to whether or not a country succeeds that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself. I'm impressed by the Cabinet that you've assembled. You've assembled people from all parts of your country, representing the different religions and the different histories and traditions.

And yet the Cabinet here represents the entire Iraqi people, and I appreciate your commitment to representing the people of Iraq. I'm impressed by the strength of your character and your desire to succeed. And I'm impressed by your strategy. We've discussed—I discussed earlier with the Prime Minister and here with his Cabinet and with members of my Cabinet the strategy necessary to have a country that is capable of answering to the needs of the people.

We discussed the security strategy. We discussed an economic strategy, a reconstruction strategy. And all of it makes sense to me. And so I've come to not only look you in the eye, I've also come to tell you that when America gives its word, it will keep its word; that it's in our interests that Iraq succeed. It's not only in the interests of the Iraqi people; it's in the interests of the American people and for people who love freedom.

Iraq is a part of the war on terror. Iraq is a central front on that war, and when Iraq succeeds in having a government of and by and for the people of Iraq, you will have dealt a serious blow to those who have a vision of darkness, who don't believe in liberty, who

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:50 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Message on the Observance of Juneteenth

June 12, 2006

I send greetings to all those observing Juneteenth.

President Lincoln called the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 the "central act" of his administration and "the greatest event of the nineteenth century." The joyous news of freedom did not reach Galveston, Texas, until two and a half years after emancipation when Major General Gordon Granger arrived and announced that the Civil War was over and all slaves were free. Ever since, Americans have marked June 19th with special celebrations and traditions commemorating this historic moment.

On this day, we honor the vision of President Lincoln, and we will keep striving to build a Nation where the dignity of every person is respected, where people are judged by the content of their character, and where the hope of the American dream reaches every neighborhood and every citizen. Together, we can continue to advance the ideals of liberty and justice that make our country strong and help more Americans realize the full promise of this great Nation.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 16.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 10

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

June 11

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

June 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Then, on the North Portico, he participated in a photo opportunity with members of the World Cup Youth Delegation.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Camp David, MD, where he met with the Interagency Team on Iraq, some participating through video teleconference.

In the afternoon, the President met with the Interagency Team on Iraq.

In the evening, the President traveled to Baghdad, Iraq, arriving the following afternoon.

June 13

In the morning, while en route to Baghdad, Iraq, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, the President met with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. Later, the President met with Prime Minister Maliki, the Iraqi Cabinet, and his Cabinet, participating from Camp David, MD, through video teleconference. Later, the President had separate meetings with President Jalal Talabani and Speaker of the Council of Representatives Mahmoud al-Mashhadani of Iraq and Iraqi business, cultural, and education leaders.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving the next morning. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with radio and television reporters.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will accompany Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to Memphis, TN, on June 30 following Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to the White House on June 29.

In accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244, UNMIK continues to transfer additional competencies to the Kosovar Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, which includes the President, Prime Minister, multiple ministries, and the Kosovo Assembly. The UNMIK retains ultimate authority in some sensitive areas such as police, justice, and ethnic minority affairs.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operations Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The UNMIK international police and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) have full responsibility for public safety and policing throughout Kosovo. The UNMIK international police and KPS also have begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints. The KFOR augments security in particularly sensitive areas or in response to particular threats as needed.

NATO Headquarters in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Pursuant to the June 2004 decision made by NATO Heads of State and Government, and in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1575 of November 22, 2004, NATO concluded its Stabilization Force operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and established NATO Headquarters-Sarajevo to continue to assist in implementing the Peace Agreement in conjunction with a newly established European Force. The NATO Headquarters-Sarajevo, to which approximately 250 U.S. personnel are assigned, is, with the European Force, the legal successor to SFOR. The principal tasks of NATO Headquarters-Sarajevo are providing advice on defense reform and performing operational supporting tasks, such as counterterrorism and supporting the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in all of these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. Officials of my Administration and I communicate regularly with the leadership and other Members of Congress with regard to these deployments, and we will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Remarks at the Congressional Picnic

June 15, 2006

Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the South Lawn. Laura and I are thrilled you're here. This is called "Rodeo on the South Lawn." [*Laughter*] And we've—first of all, I want to thank all the Members of the Congress and the Senate who are here. Thanks for serving the country.

I always take this opportunity to thank your families on your behalf. I know you do it all the time, but I know you couldn't serve without the support of your loved ones. And so, for all the family members who are here, the wives and the husbands and the children and the grandchildren, welcome. Thanks for serving the country too.

We got some interesting entertainment for you tonight. We got some people who can play music and some people who think they can play music. [*Laughter*] We got three bands, one—the first band will be called The Compassionates. The leader of that band is my Chief of Staff, Josh Bolten. Yes. Then we've got—The Second Amendments will be playing tonight. That would be Congressman Collin Peterson, Dave Weldon, Kenny Hulshof, Thaddeus McCotter—he's that rock and roll dude, Thaddeus McCotter—and Congressman Jon Porter. Once you get through those two bands, then a real group of musicians will be here, and we're fortunate Riders in the Sky will be playing for you tonight.

I hope you enjoy this as much as Laura and I enjoy it. We're really glad you're here. God bless you all, and God bless our great country. Please welcome The Compassionates.

are willing to kill the innocent in order to achieve a political objective.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, I want to thank you for giving me and my Cabinet a chance to hear from you personally and a chance to meet the members of this team you've assembled. It's an impressive group of men and women, and if given the right help, I'm convinced you will succeed, and so will the world.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 6:36 p.m. at the U.S. Embassy. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to United States Military Personnel in Baghdad

June 13, 2006

Thank you all. Thank you for the warm welcome. Thought I'd stop in to say hello. [*Laughter*] I bring greetings from a grateful nation. I thank you for your sacrifice; I thank you for your service; I thank you for making history.

You know, one of the things I try to do is put good people in place who accomplish hard jobs. And I can't think of two better leaders than Zal Khalilzad and General Casey to lead this important effort. I thank you all very much for your service to our country. Your sacrifice is noble, and your sacrifice is important.

I understand long deployments are tough—they're tough on you, and they're tough on your families. And so the first thing I want to tell you is, the American people are incredibly grateful for what you do, and I bring their greetings and their thanks for the sacrifices you and your family make.

These are historic times. The mission that you're accomplishing here in Iraq will go down in the history books as an incredibly important moment in the history of freedom and peace, an incredibly important moment of doing our duty to secure our homeland.

You know, right after September the 11th, I knew that some would forget the dangers we face. Some would hope that the world would be what it's not—a peaceful place in which people wouldn't want to do harm to those of us who love freedom. I vowed that day, after September the 11th, to do everything I could to protect the American people. And I was able to make that claim because I knew there were people such as yourself who were willing to be on the frontline in the war on terror.

Baghdad and Iraq is a front in the war on terror. It is a part of our mission to help make sure that the world is a better place. I truly believe the work that you're doing here is laying the foundation of peace for generations to come, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The progress here in Iraq has been remarkable when you really think about it. The people of this country suffered under the hands of a brutal tyrant. And thanks to the United States forces and coalition forces, the people are liberated from the clutches of Saddam Hussein. America is safer; the world is better off; and the Iraqi people have a chance to realize the great blessings of liberty because Saddam Hussein is no longer in power.

Thanks to your hard work, the Iraqi people have been given a chance to go to the polls—not once but three different times—to elect a government that is dedicated to the will of the people. Today I have come to not only thank you but to look Prime Minister Maliki in the eyes, to determine whether or not he is as dedicated to a free Iraq as you are, and I believe he is.

I met with the Cabinet officials from all walks of life here in Iraq and came away with the distinct impression that they are unified in serving the people of Iraq. They want to succeed. The faith and future of Iraq is in their hands, and our job is to help them succeed—and we will.

I have come today to personally show our Nation's commitment to a free Iraq. My message to the Iraqi people is this: Seize the moment; seize this opportunity to develop a government of and by and for the people. And I also have a message to the Iraqi people, that when America gives a commitment, America will keep its commitment.

Our work is not done with the formation of a unity government. This Government is just getting started. And the enemies of a free Iraq will do everything they can to stop the progress. That should tell us something

about the enemies of a free Iraq. Who wouldn't want the people's will to be expressed? Who wouldn't want a government to be able to meet the needs of the people? Those who kill the innocent lives or those who have no concept of liberty, have no sense of justice, have no respect for human rights and human dignity.

But I believe the Iraqi Government that's formed does respect human rights and human dignity. It will respond to the will of the people. There are going to be tough days ahead and more sacrifice for Americans as well as Iraqis. But I come here—come away from here believing that the will is strong and the desire to meet the needs of the people is real and tangible.

You know, one of the things that we've got to realize—"we," the world, have got to realize, is that Iraqi women want their children to grow up in a peaceful world. They want their sons and daughters to be well educated; they want to live in peace and harmony; they want to be able to realize their hopes and aspirations. It's a common desire, and is one that you all are helping the Iraqis realize. It's important work; it's vital work; and it's historic work.

Our military will stay on the offense. We will continue to hunt down people like Mr. Zarqawi and bring them to justice. We will continue to train the Iraqis so they can help the unity Government secure the peace. I've told the American people that as the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down, and I appreciate all the military folks here who are working hard to help the Iraqi forces become capable and able to do the job the Iraqi people expect them to do. Those of you who are not in the military, the civilians, have got a really important job to do as well, and I want to thank you for the job you're doing.

It is clear that Saddam Hussein destroyed many of the institutions necessary for this society to succeed. It is clear that he was a selfish, brutal leader who was willing to sacrifice infrastructure and civil society in order to meet his narrow objectives. And it is clear to me that our job is to help the Prime Minister and his Government implement his strategy and his plan to restore infrastructure and education and health and agricultural society so that people have the confidence in their new Government. Yours is hard work, but it's necessary work, and the Government of the United States stands strongly beside you.

The stakes are high, and what happens here in Iraq reaches far beyond the borders of Iraq. The war on terror really will be addressed by strong actions by our intelligence and military services to bring to justice those who would do us harm. I've told the American people, we will defeat the enemy overseas so we do not have to face them here at home.

Ultimately, the victory in the war on terror, the victory in a struggle against those who have no ideology—well, they've got an ideology, but it's an ideology that is dark and dismal. It's one that doesn't respect human dignity. It's an ideology that doesn't believe in the freedom to worship. It's an ideology that doesn't respect the role and rights of women in society. It's an ideology that has no hope. The way to defeat that ideology is with an ideology of light. I believe in the universality of freedom. I believe deep in everybody's soul is the desire to be free.

We don't expect the Iraqi Government to look like the American Government. We expect an Iraqi government to honor its traditions and its histories and its religious faiths. But we do expect the Iraqi Government to honor the right of every man, woman, and child to live in a free society. And when Iraq succeeds—and it will—the rest of the world, particularly in the Middle East, will see such a hopeful example of what's possible.

I told you earlier, we were laying the foundation of peace for generations to come, and we are, because we go with confidence, knowing that liberty is the desire of every soul. When Iraq succeeds, reformers and people who desire to live in a free society will see such a hopeful example, and they'll begin to demand the same rights and the same conditions and the same hopeful society.

And that's why I tell you, what you're doing is historic in nature. People will look back at this period and wonder whether or not America was true to its beginnings; whether we strongly believed in the universality of freedom and whether we were willing to act on it. Certainly we acted in our

by providing military and other support personnel to the ISAF.

The United States continues to detain several hundred al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who are believed to pose a continuing threat to the United States and its interests. The combat-equipped and combat-support forces deployed to Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the U.S. Southern Command area of operations since January 2002 continue to conduct secure detention operations for the approximately 460 enemy combatants at Guantanamo Bay.

The U.N. Security Council authorized a Multinational Force (MNF) in Iraq under unified command in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1511 of October 16, 2003, and reaffirmed its authorization in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1546 of June 8, 2004. In U.N. Security Council Resolution 1637 of November 8, 2005, the Security Council, noting the Iraqi government's request to retain the presence of the MNF, extended the MNF mandate for a period ending on December 31, 2006. Under Resolutions 1546 and 1637, the mission of the MNF is to contribute to security and stability in Iraq, as reconstruction continues. These contributions have included assisting in building the capability of the Iraqi security forces and institutions as the Iraqi people drafted and approved a constitution and established a constitutionally elected government. The U.S. contribution to the MNF is approximately 131,000 military personnel.

In furtherance of our efforts against terrorists who pose a continuing and imminent threat to the United States, our friends and allies, and our forces abroad, the United States continues to work with friends and allies in areas around the globe. These efforts include the deployment of U.S. combat-equipped and combat-support forces to assist in enhancing the counterterrorism capabilities of our friends and allies. United States combat-equipped and combat-support forces continue to be located in the Horn of Africa region, and the U.S. forces headquarters element in Djibouti provides command and control support as necessary for military operations against al-Qaida and other international terrorists in the Horn of Africa region, including in Yemen. In addition, the United States continues to conduct maritime interception operations on the high seas in the areas of responsibility of all of the geographic combatant commanders. These maritime operations have the responsibility to stop the movement, arming, or financing of international terrorists.

NATO-Led Kosovo Force (KFOR)

As noted in previous reports regarding U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo, the U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide an international security presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (which is now Serbia); enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army; provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protection Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, there are 24 NATO nations contributing to KFOR. Eleven non-NATO contributing countries also participate by providing military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR. The U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is about 1,700 U.S. military personnel, or approximately 11 percent of KFOR's total strength of approximately 16,000 personnel.

The U.S. forces have been assigned to the eastern region of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. The KFOR operates under NATO command and control and rules of engagement. The KFOR coordinates with and supports the UNMIK at most levels; provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside; and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence.

Memorandum on Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

June 15, 2006

Presidential Determination No. 2006–15

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of the Act. My Administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our Embassy to Jerusalem.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

This suspension shall take effect after transmission of this determination and report to the Congress.

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Deployments of United States Combat-Equipped Armed Forces Around the World

June 15, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am providing this supplemental consolidated report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93–148), as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about deployments of U.S. combat-equipped Armed Forces around the world. This supplemental report covers operations in support of the war on terror, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The War on Terror

Since September 24, 2001, I have reported, consistent with Public Law 107–40 and the War Powers Resolution, on the combat operations in Afghanistan against al-Qaida terrorists and their Taliban supporters, which began on October 7, 2001, and the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat-support forces to a number of locations in the Central, Pacific, and Southern Command areas of operation in support of those operations and of other operations in our war on terror.

I will direct additional measures as necessary in the exercise of the U.S. right to self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests. Such measures may include short-notice deployments of special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various locations throughout the world. It is not possible to know at this time either the precise scope or duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States.

United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, continue to conduct the U.S. campaign to pursue al-Qaida terrorists and to eliminate support to al-Qaida. These operations have been successful in seriously degrading al-Qaida's training capabilities. United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners in Combined Forces Command, Afghanistan, ended the Taliban regime and are actively pursuing and engaging remnant al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. Approximately 200 U.S. personnel also are assigned to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The U.N. Security Council authorized the ISAF in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1386 of December 20, 2001, and has reaffirmed its authorization since that time, most recently for a 12-month period beginning October 13, 2005, in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1623 of September 13, 2005. The mission of the ISAF under NATO command is to assist the Government of Afghanistan in creating a safe and secure environment that allows reconstruction and the reestablishment of Afghan authorities. Currently, all 26 NATO nations contribute to the ISAF. Ten non-NATO contributing countries also participate

own self-interest right after September the 11th, and now we act not only in our own self-interests but in the interests of men, women, and children in the broader Middle East, no matter what their religion, no matter where they were born, no matter how they speak.

This is a moment—this is a time where the world can turn one way or the other, where the world can be a better place or a more dangerous place. And the United States of America and citizens such as yourself are dedicated to making sure that the world we leave behind is a better place for all.

It is such an honor to be here. It is such an honor to be with you. May God bless you all; may God bless your work; may God bless your families; and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:32 p.m. at the U.S. Embassy. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad; Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; former President Saddam Hussein, and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; and senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, who was killed in Baquba, Iraq, on June 7. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference

June 14, 2006

The President. Good morning. Thank you. I've just returned from Baghdad, and I was inspired to be able to visit the capital of a free and democratic Iraq.

It was a pleasure to meet face to face with the Prime Minister. I talked to him on the phone a couple of times, but I thought it was important to sit down with him and talk to him in person. I saw firsthand the strength of his character and his deep determination to succeed, to build a country that can sustain itself, govern itself, and defend itself.

I also had the pleasure of meeting with people who work for the U.S. Government, our Embassy staff, the intelligence community, and I had a chance to thank them. Theirs is a tough job, and they're far away from home, and obviously, they miss their families. And it was an honor to say to them, I appreciate their hard work, and so do the American people.

And I met with our troops. I had a chance to congratulate those that were responsible for bringing Zarqawi to justice. You know, when you're in a theater like that, it's important to hear words of congratulations sometimes, to hear that their efforts are appreciated—and doing hard work. And I got to do that.

General Casey briefed me on the operations that followed the death of Zarqawi. He told me that Iraqi and coalition forces are still on the offense, that they launched a series of raids on terrorist targets across Iraq. We've got new intelligence from those raids which will enable us to continue to keep the pressure on the foreigners and local Iraqis that are killing innocent lives to stop the advance of a country that can sustain itself and govern itself and defend itself.

Obviously, the raids aren't going to end terrorism. I understand that, and the American people understand that, and the Iraqi people understand that. But the terrorists are vulnerable, and we will strike their network and disrupt their operations and continue to bring their leaders to justice.

Prime Minister Maliki and I held a joint meeting of our two Cabinets—members of my Cabinet participating by video, some of whom were slightly surprised to see me from afar. I told the Prime Minister how impressed I was to meet the team he assembled. These are good people from different walks of life. I appreciated very much the agenda he's laid out. In other words, he's got a plan to succeed. And I appreciated their determination—it's not just his determination but their Cabinet's determination to succeed. In other words, part of the success in Iraq depends upon the Iraqis and their will and their desire. The Iraqi people have expressed their desires, and now it's up to the Government to follow through.

The Prime Minister briefed us on immediate steps he's taken in three key areas: to improve security; to build up the Iraqi economy so they can see—the Iraqi people can see real progress, real economic progress; and he's reaching out to the international community to help secure support for this

new Government. We discussed ways that my administration can help the Prime Minister accomplish these objectives. The policy of the United States Government is to stand with this new Government and help them succeed, and we will do what it takes to help them succeed.

The Prime Minister is taking immediate action to implement a plan to improve security, and his top priority is around Baghdad. Operation Together Forward started this morning. This operation is a joint effort to restore security and rule of law to high-risk areas in the capital city. It will be carried out by some 26,000 Iraqi soldiers, some 23,000 Iraqi police, backed up by over 7,200 coalition forces. Iraqi troops will increase the number of checkpoints, enforce a curfew, and implement a strict weapons ban across the Iraqi capital. Baghdad is a city of more than 6½ million residents, and we've got to recognize that it's going to take time for these operations to take hold.

Iraqi and coalition forces are also working to restore security in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Province. The Prime Minister's plan to bring militias and other armed groups under Government control is moving forward, and we talked about that plan. He understands how important it is to rein in these militias. Many militia members will be demobilized and integrated into the Iraqi security forces, where they'll be dispersed among different units and, obviously, monitored closely by the Government. I've directed General Casey and our Ambassador to work with the Prime Minister on this really important effort, so he can make clear: Illegal militias have no future in a free Iraq.

Prime Minister Maliki is working to build confidence in the Iraqi security forces, and he has a plan to do that. To assist him, we'll continue embedding coalition transition teams in Iraqi Army and police units. We've deployed advisory teams to assist Iraq's new ministries of—Ministers of Defense and Interior, both of whom I met. We want to help them build the command and control capacity of their ministries. In other words, you can't have an effective army unless you've got command and control coming out of Government.

We want to establish an internal affairs bureau to root out corruption. No question, this Government has got to deal with corruption at all levels in order to earn the confidence of the people. And, of course, we will encourage them and help them investigate and punish human rights violations in order to earn the confidence of all Iraqis.

Part of the Prime Minister's plan is to improve the Iraqi judicial system. And to assist him, I've directed the Attorney General and the Secretaries of State and Defense to work together on a new rule-of-law initiative. Under this initiative, we'll help train Iraqi judges, increase security so they can do their jobs, improve Iraqi prison capacity, and help the Iraqi Government provide equal justice for all its citizens.

Prime Minister Maliki is promoting reconciliation among the Iraqi people. And during my discussions with his Cabinet and others, the concept of reconciliation kept coming up. People know they've got to reconcile the past in order to have a bright future. He told us he's going to soon appoint a reconciliation committee that will focus on resolving specific concerns of different Iraqi communities. We will support his efforts to bring the Iraqis together by encouraging leaders from countries like South Africa to share their experiences with this new Government, to help them reconcile the past.

Secondly, the Prime Minister has a plan to revitalize the Iraqi economy. He understands that the people have got to feel benefits from the new Government. I mean, it's a simple concept, but it's a profound one. I've directed our Secretary of Treasury and—or the Treasury Department to send teams of experts to Iraq to help the Government create a public finance system that is accountable and transparent. These advisers will help Iraqis develop an economic framework that promotes growth and job creation and opportunity. I've directed the Secretaries of Commerce and Agriculture to travel to Iraq as soon as possible to meet with their counterparts.

To revitalize the Iraqi economy, the Prime Minister is working to increase oil and electricity production. We spent a lot of time talking about energy in Iraq. I reminded the Government that that oil belongs to the Iraqi

Statement on Signing the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006

June 15, 2006

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 4939, the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006." The Act provides additional resources needed to fight the war on terror, help citizens of the Gulf States recover from devastating hurricanes, and protect Americans from a potential influenza pandemic.

Sections 1209 and 2202 of the Act prohibit use of certain funds appropriated in the Act to initiate new start programs unless the congressional defense committees receive advance written notice. The Supreme Court of the United States has stated that the President's authority to classify and control access to information bearing on the national security flows from the Constitution and does not depend upon a legislative grant of authority. Although the advance notice contemplated by sections 1209 and 2202 can be provided in most situations as a matter of comity, situations may arise, especially in wartime, in which the President must act promptly under his constitutional grants of executive power and authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces while protecting certain extraordinarily sensitive national security information. The executive branch shall construe these sections in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President.

Subsection 1304(a) of the Act amends section 550 of Public Law 109–102 to purport to require the President to consult with committees of the Congress prior to exercising authority granted to the President by section 550. Subsection 1304(b) purports to require the Secretary of State to consult such committees prior to exercising authority under that provision. Because the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and take care that the laws be faithfully executed cannot be made by law subject to a requirement to consult with congressional committees or to involve them in executive decision-making, the executive branch shall construe the references in the provisions to consulting to require only notification.

The provision under the heading, "Joint Explosive Device Defeat Fund," Department of Defense-Military, that calls for the reporting to congressional committees of information that may include highly sensitive and classified national security information, will be construed consistently with the President's constitutional responsibility to control the dissemination of such information.

The executive branch shall construe the provision in the Act under the heading "Disaster Relief," Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, that purports to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a housing proposal and expenditure plan for congressional committee approval as calling solely for notification, as any other construction would be inconsistent with the constitutional principles enunciated by the Supreme Court of the United States in *INS v. Chadha*.

Sections 7030 through 7033 of the Act, inclusive, purport to make changes in or in relation to statements of managers that accompanied various appropriations bills reported from House-Senate conferences in the past. Also, a provision in chapter 9 of the Act under the heading "Emergency Relief Program," Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, purports to give binding effect to a document not presented to the President. The executive branch shall construe these provisions in a manner consistent with the bicameral passage and presentment requirements of the Constitution for the making of a law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 15, 2006.

NOTE: H.R. 4939, approved June 15, was assigned Public Law No. 109–234.

the monument for study, enjoyment, or volunteer assistance for purposes of conservation and management.

Pelagic Species means Pacific Pelagic Management Unit Species as defined at 50 CFR 660.12.

Pono means appropriate, correct, and deemed necessary by traditional standards in the Hawaiian culture.

Recreational Activity means an activity conducted for personal enjoyment that does not result in the extraction of monument resources and that does not involve a fee-for-service transaction. This includes, but is not limited to, wildlife viewing, SCUBA diving, snorkeling, and boating.

Special Preservation Area (SPA) means discrete, biologically important areas of the monument within which uses are subject to conditions, restrictions, and prohibitions, including but not limited to access restrictions. SPAs are used to avoid concentrations of uses that could result in declines in species populations or habitat, to reduce conflicts between uses, to protect areas that are critical for sustaining important marine species or habitats, or to provide opportunities for scientific research.

Special Ocean Use means an activity or use of the monument that is engaged in to generate revenue or profits for one or more of the persons associated with the activity or use, and does not destroy, cause the loss of, or injure monument resources. This includes ocean-based ecotourism and other activities such as educational and research activities that are engaged in to generate revenue, but does not include commercial fishing for bottomfish or pelagic species conducted pursuant to a valid permit issued by NOAA.

Stowed and Not Available for Immediate Use means not readily accessible for immediate use, e.g., by being securely covered and lashed to a deck or bulkhead, tied down, unbaited, unloaded, or partially disassembled (such as spear shafts being kept separate from spear guns).

Sustenance Fishing means fishing for bottomfish or pelagic species in which all catch is consumed within the monument, and that is incidental to an activity permitted under this proclamation.

Vessel Monitoring System or VMS means a vessel monitoring system or mobile transceiver unit approved by the Office for Law Enforcement for use on vessels permitted to access the monument, as required by this subpart.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any lands thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

NOTE: At the time of publication, this proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a proclamation number.

Statement on Congressional Action on Appropriations Legislation

June 15, 2006

I applaud those Members of Congress who came together in a fiscally responsible way to provide much-needed funds for the war on terror and continued Hurricane Katrina recovery, as well as for securing our border and protecting against a possible avian flu pandemic. Responding to these critical needs in a timely way is not easy, but it must be done if we are to fight terrorism, defend our homeland, enforce our borders, and fulfill our moral obligation to help our fellow Americans in need. I am pleased that Congress has addressed these urgent national priorities within the spending limits I set. House and Senate Leadership and Chairmen Cochran and Lewis deserve great credit for working together to pass a fiscally responsible bill.

people, and the Government has the responsibility to be good stewards of that valuable asset and valuable resource.

We have—we're working with the Iraqi Government on measures to protect key infrastructure from insurgent attacks. There's rapid-repair teams that are being established that will quickly restore oil and electricity production if and when attacks do occur.

I've directed the Secretary of Energy to travel to Iraq to meet with his counterpart and identify ways we can provide additional support. It's up to the Iraqis to pass a hydrocarbon law, which they're now debating. It's up—for the Iraqi Government to decide what to do with the people's asset. Our advice is to be careful and to develop it with the people's interest in mind.

Finally, the Prime Minister has taken immediate action to engage the international community, and we're going to help him. Earlier, the international community pledged about $13 billion to help this new Government, and they've only paid about 3 billion. And so we're going to help encourage those who've made a pledge to pay up to help the new Government succeed. Plus, he's working to develop what he's calling an international compact. Under this compact, Iraq will take a series of steps in the political, economic, and security areas. And then the international community will provide more robust political and economic support.

I told the Prime Minister, I'll designate Deputy Treasury Secretary Bob Kimmitt to lead our efforts on behalf of our country and the people of this country. He'll be supported by State Department Counselor Phil Zelikow and other senior officials, and they will soon travel to the United Nations and then to Baghdad for consultations. And then they're going to travel across Europe and Asia and the Middle East to discuss the compact and secure support from Governments for this new Government.

I was impressed with the Prime Minister, and I'm impressed by his team. I told him that America is a nation that meets its commitments and keeps its word. And that's what we're going to do in Iraq. It's in our interest that Iraq succeed. More importantly, it's in the interest of the Iraqi people. The challenges that remain are serious, and they will require more sacrifice and patience. And our efforts are well worth it.

By helping this new Government succeed, we'll be closer to completing our mission, and the mission is to develop a country that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself, and a country that is an ally in the war on terror. We'll seize this moment of opportunity to help the Prime Minister. We'll defeat our common enemies. We'll help build a lasting democracy in the heart of the Middle East, and that will make Americans and Iraqis and the world more secure.

I'll now take your questions. Nedra [Nedra Pickler, Associated Press].

Support for the Iraqi Government

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You said yesterday that a standard of no violence in Iraq is an impossible standard to meet, but do you believe that there needs to be a reduction in violence for U.S. troops to begin to draw down? And if so, how much?

The President. Yes, I said that if people say, "Well, there's got to be no violence in order for this to be a successful experience," then it's not going to happen. All that does is give the power of—a handful of murderers to determine success. Obviously, we'd like violence to go down, and that's what the operation in Baghdad is intending to do, starting in the capital, is to reduce violence. And the reason why it's important for violence to be reduced, obviously, is, one, to save lives, but, two, give confidence to the Iraqi people that their Government will be able to sustain itself and govern itself and meet the needs of the people.

This is a tough struggle, and the reason why is because the rules of warfare as we used to know them are out the window. I mean, there's no rule of warfare. It's just, if you can kill innocent life in order to shake somebody's will or create consternation in society, just go ahead and do it. And so it's a tough task, no question about it.

But I'm confident that this Government will succeed in meeting that task. And the reason why I said that we shouldn't use the level of—have a zero-violence expectation is because there are other measures to determine success, starting with political measures. I mean, this is a government which is

now a unity government, formed under a constitution that the people voted for. That's success. The question is, can this Government sustain itself, and that will be determined if—whether or not they're be able to get electricity and use their oil resources wisely. Can it defend itself? One way to measure whether it can defend itself is through the strength of their Army and their police. And so that's what I said.

And the second part of your question?

Q. Do you have a specific target for how much you want that violence to be reduced?

The President. Enough for the Government to succeed. In other words, the Iraqi people have got to have confidence in this unity Government, and reduction in violence will enable the people to have confidence.

And you said something about troop levels. Our policy is stand up/stand down: As the Iraqis stand up, we'll stand down. But if we stand down too soon, it won't enable us to achieve our objectives. And we will support this Iraqi Government—that's what I went to tell them. We'll do what it takes to support them. And part of that support is the presence of coalition forces.

Guantanamo Bay Detainees/Abu Ghraib Prison

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You expressed serious concern when you learned about the Guantanamo suicides, and you and your aides immediately called allies. I'm wondering, how concerned are you about the U.S. image abroad, based on this incident and the ongoing investigation in Haditha and Abu Ghraib and other incidents? And also, why shouldn't Guantanamo be closed now?

The President. I'd like to close Guantanamo, but I also recognize that we're holding some people that are darn dangerous and that we better have a plan to deal with them in our courts. And the best way to handle—in my judgment—handle these types of people is through our military courts. And that's why we're waiting on the Supreme Court to make a decision.

Part of closing Guantanamo is to send some folks back home, like we've been doing. And the State Department is in the process of encouraging countries to take the folks back. Of course, sometimes we get criticized for sending some people out of Guantanamo back to their home country because of the nature of the home country. It's a little bit of a catch-22. But we're working through this.

No question, Guantanamo sends a signal to some of our friends—provides an excuse, for example, to say the United States is not upholding the values that they're trying to encourage other countries to adhere to. And my answer to them is, is that we are a nation of laws and rule of law. These people have been picked up off the battlefield, and they're very dangerous. And so we have that balance between customary justice, the typical system, and one that will be done in the military courts. And that's what we're waiting for.

Eventually, these people will have trials, and they will have counsel, and they will be represented in a court of law. I say "these people," those who are not sent back to their mother countries. You know, we've sent a lot of people home already. I don't think the American people know that, nor do the citizens of some of the countries that are concerned about Guantanamo.

You mentioned Abu Ghraib. No question, it's set a terrible example. I was asked at a press conference in the East Room with Tony Blair, mistakes. Abu Ghraib was a terrible mistake. I was asked that question, by the way, about Abu—very same question you asked—by a member of the Iraqi Cabinet. And I told her, I said that where there's allegations, we will investigate. And I reminded her that ours is a transparent society where people will see and follow these investigations, and people will be held to account according to our laws.

But I also want the people to understand, here and around the world, that 99.9 percent of our troops are honorable, decent people who are serving our country under difficult conditions, and I'm proud of them. I'm proud of the United States military. And that's a message our military and their families must consistently hear, that they're doing fine work. I understand the politics and all that. But I'm going to continue to remind them that, set politics aside, this Nation owes you a debt of gratitude.

must be conducted in a manner compatible with this proclamation, including considering the extent to which the conduct of the activity may diminish monument resources, qualities, and ecological integrity, as well as any indirect, secondary, or cumulative effects of the activity and the duration of such effects. The Secretaries will develop procedures for systematic reporting of sustenance fishing.

Definitions For purposes of this proclamation:

Attract or Attracting means luring or attempting to lure a living resource by any means, except the mere presence of human beings (e.g., swimmers, divers, boaters).

Bottomfish Species means bottomfish management unit species as defined at 50 CFR 660.12.

Commercial Bottomfishing means commercial fishing for bottomfish species.

Commercial Passenger Vessel means a vessel that carries individuals who have paid for such carriage.

Commercial Pelagic Trolling means commercial fishing for pelagic species.

Deserting a vessel means:

1. Leaving a vessel aground or adrift:
   (i) Without notifying the Secretaries of the vessel going aground or adrift within 12 hours of its discovery and developing and presenting to the Secretaries a preliminary salvage plan within 24 hours of such notification;
   (ii) After expressing or manifesting intention to not undertake or to cease salvage efforts; or
   (iii) When the Secretaries are unable, after reasonable efforts, to reach the owner/operator within 12 hours of the vessels condition being reported to authorities.
2. Leaving a vessel at anchor when its condition creates potential for a grounding, discharge, or deposit and the owner/operator fails to secure the vessel in a timely manner.

Ecological Reserve means an area of the monument consisting of contiguous, diverse habitats that provide natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas for the replenishment and genetic protection of marine life, and also to protect and preserve natural assemblages of habitats and species within areas representing a broad diversity of resources and habitats found within the monument.

Ecological Integrity means a condition determined to be characteristic of an ecosystem that has the ability to maintain the function, structure, and abundance of natural biological communities, including rates of change in response to natural environmental variation.

Fishing Year means the year beginning at 0001 local time on January 1 and ending at 2400 local time on December 31.

Introduced Species means:

1. A species (including, but not limited to, any of its biological matter capable of propagation) that is non-native to the ecosystem(s) protected by the monument; or
2. Any organism into which genetic matter from another species has been transferred in order that the host organism acquires the genetic traits of the transferred genes.

Landing means offloading fish from a fishing vessel or causing fish to be offloaded from a fishing vessel.

Midway Atoll Special Management Area means the area of the monument surrounding Midway Atoll out to a distance of 12 nautical miles, established for the enhanced management, protection, and preservation of monument wildlife and historical resources.

Mobile Transceiver Unit means a vessel monitoring system or VMS device installed on board a vessel that is used for vessel monitoring and transmitting the vessel's position as required by this proclamation.

Native Hawaiian Practices means cultural activities conducted for the purposes of perpetuating traditional knowledge, caring for and protecting the environment, and strengthening cultural and spiritual connections to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands that have demonstrable benefits to the Native Hawaiian community. This may include, but is not limited to, the non-commercial use of monument resources for direct personal consumption while in the monument.

Ocean-Based Ecotourism means a class of fee-for-service activities that involves visiting

(D) Shall require the permittee to purchase and maintain comprehensive general liability insurance, or post an equivalent bond, against claims arising out of activities conducted under the permit and to agree to hold the United States harmless against such claims; and

(ii) Each person issued a permit for a special ocean use under this section shall submit an annual report to the Secretaries not later than December 31 of each year that describes activities conducted under that permit and revenues derived from such activities during the year.

b. The Secretaries may not issue a permit for a special ocean use unless they determine that the proposed activity will be consistent with the findings listed above for the issuance of any permit.

c. Categories of special ocean use being permitted for the first time under this section will be restricted in duration and permitted as a special ocean use pilot project. Subsequent permits for any category of special ocean use may be issued only if a special ocean use pilot project for that category has been determined by the Secretaries to meet the criteria in this proclamation and any terms and conditions placed on the permit for the pilot project.

d. The Secretaries shall provide public notice prior to requiring a special ocean use permit for any category of activity not previously identified as a special ocean use.

e. The following requirements apply to permits for a special ocean use for an activity within the Midway Atoll Special Management Area.

(i) The Secretaries may issue a permit for a special ocean use for activities within the Midway Atoll Special Management Area provided:

(A) The Secretaries find the activity furthers the conservation and management of the monument; and

(B) The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or his or her designee has determined that the activity is compatible with the purposes for which the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was designated.

(ii) As part of a permit, the Secretaries may allow vessels to transit the monument as necessary to enter the Midway Atoll Special Management Area.

f. The Secretaries may issue a permit for a special ocean use for activities outside the Midway Atoll Special Management Area provided:

(i) The Secretaries find the activity will directly benefit the conservation and management of the monument;

(ii) The Secretaries determine the purpose of the activity is for research or education related to the resources or qualities of the monument;

(iii) The Secretaries provide public notice of the application and an opportunity to provide comments at least 30 days prior to issuing the permit; and

(iv) The activity does not involve the use of a commercial passenger vessel.

4. *Additional Findings for Recreation Permits.* The Secretaries may issue a permit only for recreational activities to be conducted within the Midway Atoll Special Management Area. In addition to the general findings listed above for any permit, the Secretaries may not issue such permit unless the Secretaries find:

a. The activity is for the purpose of recreation as defined in regulation;

b. The activity is not associated with any for-hire operation; and

c. The activity does not involve any extractive use.

Sustenance Fishing

Sustenance fishing means fishing for bottomfish or pelagic species that are consumed within the monument, and is incidental to an activity permitted under this proclamation. The Secretaries may permit sustenance fishing outside of any Special Preservation Area as a term or condition of any permit issued under this proclamation. The Secretaries may not permit sustenance fishing in the Midway Atoll Special Management Area unless the activity has been determined by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or his or her designee to be compatible with the purposes for which the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was established. Sustenance fishing

So we'll deal with these incidents, and we'll deal with them in an upfront way. But I'm not going to let these incidents stain the reputation of our military. They're good people; they really are.

Yes, sir. Roger [Roger Runningen, Bloomberg News].

National Economy

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. Roger, Roger.

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, you've said that you trust the markets to guide you, but stock and bond markets are telling us that inflation is a growing concern. Is there a threat that inflation is going to derail the economic expansion?

The President. There are a lot of indicators about the strength of our economy, starting with job creation, productivity increases, small—the entrepreneurial spirit is strong. There's a lot of positive things. And obviously, the Fed is watching the signals for inflation very carefully. They'll make decisions independent of the White House.

On fiscal policy, though, I would strongly urge the Congress to recognize why we have grown the way we have grown, why we're—have got strong economic growth in the first quarter of this year, why we've added over 5 million new jobs in a—in 2¾ years, and that's because the tax cuts are working, and they need to make the tax cuts permanent. Progrowth economic policies work. And that's why I've been calling for permanence in the Tax Code.

And so there will be monetary policy—we'll pay attention very carefully to signs, inflationary signs. That's Ben Bernanke's job. Our job is to work with Congress to have wise fiscal policy. And wise fiscal policy means not only keeping revenues low, but it also means being wise about how we spend the people's money. I called Chairman Lewis this morning to congratulate him on getting a good supplemental out of the House of Representatives. It's a supplemental that meets our numbers and meets the requirements for a good bill. And evidently, it's going to be voted on in the Senate here pretty quick, and I look forward to signing that piece of legislation, should it make it to my desk.

Let's see here. Jake Tapper [ABC News]. Yes, filling in, huh?

Progress in Iraq/Natural Resources

Q. How are you doing, sir?

The President. I'm doing all right. Thank you. A little jetlagged, as I'm sure you can imagine—nearly 60.

Q. I can, sir. Thank you.

The President. Good. I'm not sure you possibly can empathize—[*laughter*]—but nevertheless——

Q. Jetlag, I understand jetlag.

The President. Okay, good.

Q. What are your feelings about discussions, in the new Iraqi Government, of amnesty for insurgents? And regarding the oil resources in Iraq that you discussed, do you support guaranteeing the Sunnis a percentage of the oil profits, either through a new law or through a constitutional provision?

The President. Yes, that's not a bad question for a substitute guy. [*Laughter*] I believe that the Iraqi Government—first of all, the decision on what to do with their resources is their decision, not mine. And so this is advisory. These are people that are elected and under a Constitution. My advice to them is to use their energy assets as a way to unite the country. And by that I mean that people will have—they may not have oil resources in their provinces, but they would have a stake in how the resources are developed elsewhere in the country.

One option I laid out the other day for them to consider—I must confess, this isn't probably the best way to convince a government to do something, is to put it out through the press—but I did suggest a royalty trust on behalf of the Iraqi people. Other countries have tried that; the state of Alaska has tried that. To me, it's an interesting idea for them to consider, to basically say that no matter where you live in the country, you have a stake in the future of your country because of your ownership in energy assets.

Other part of the question?

Q. Possible amnesty for insurgents.

The President. Yes—I talked to the Prime Minister about—his question is, possible amnesty. The Prime Minister, I think, would say "reconciliation." This is an issue that is on the minds of a lot of the folks there in Iraq.

In other words, they're trying to figure out how to reconcile an ugly past with a hopeful future. And part of that is reconciliation. I'm not exactly sure how you would—what you mean by—if somebody has committed a crime, I don't know whether or not they'll be that lenient, frankly.

But I do recognize that—I mean, they recognize that, for example, Baath Party membership in order to secure a job or to be able to get an advanced degree should be a part—shouldn't be held against a person. And I think they're willing to balance the difference between terror and—"expediency" isn't the right word, but terror and membership of a party to advance one's life. And I was impressed. I was impressed by their—the sophisticated nature of that discussion and their recognition that it's really important to do the best they can to reconcile the past.

One of the things I was looking for was—first of all, I'm convinced this Government will succeed. And one of the reasons I am is because there is a sense of hopefulness. If you're a person stuck in the past, you tend to be bitter and look for ways to seek revenge. I didn't sense that. I did have a strong sense that they're really happy to get rid of Saddam Hussein, to a person. They believe he wrecked their country in more ways than one. It was clear he wrecked their infrastructure. And it is clear that he wrecked a lot of lives. But I didn't have that great sense of people being so bound up in bitterness that they weren't willing to think positively about the future. And I think that's important. I really do.

Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News], fine-looking scarf—not scarf, what do you call that thing?

Progress in Iraq

Q. Thank you very much.

The President. It's strong.

Q. Thank you. [*Laughter*] Mr. President, you've made a public point recently of soliciting outside advice about the way forward in Iraq and retooling your strategy. I wonder, what idea from a critic or somebody outside your administration that you've concluded should be part of the strategy going forward?

The President. Well, I think—I've gotten a lot of advice from people. You know, one of the interesting debates from the outside community is troop levels. I've got people who say, "You need to increase the number of forces—now." I've gotten people that said, "Well, the role of the United States ought to be more indirect than it has been," in other words, in a supporting role. To those folks, I say, "Look, I'm going to rely upon General Casey." But I did share with him the philosophies that were reflected in a conversation we had over lunch at Camp David.

I've had people come in and say, "You better make sure that the Iraqi forces are well-tooled to do their job." In other words, there's people who have gone over there and taken a hard look, have felt like that the Iraqi forces were not equipped well enough to be able to stand up as we stand down. I asked that question of General Casey, and the area where he agrees with the critics is that they don't quite have the capability to move themselves around the country. In other words, they need more mobility. And he recognizes that and is working toward an Iraqi Army that has more mobility.

Obviously, there has been criticism about our reconstruction plan, that we started with big projects that were sometimes blown up or sometimes didn't get off the ground like we'd hoped. And that's why we morphed a lot of our aid into a PRT approach, where local commanders had the capacity to get money out more quickly.

But I appreciate people's advice, and I appreciate their candor. I am going to meet this afternoon with a group of folks put together by the Peace Institute. They're going to take a look at Iraq. And the reason I bring that up to you is that it's important for people to share their advice with this administration. It's an important business. And it's not easy. It's a complex task to help a society go from tyranny to freedom.

But the American people have got to understand, I believe we're going to succeed. That's why we're there. And my message to the Iraqis is, we're going to help you succeed. My message to the enemy is, don't count on us leaving before we succeed. My message to our troops is, we support you 100 percent; keep doing what you're doing. And my message to the critics is, is that we listen very carefully and adjust when needed to adjust.

understanding of monument resources and qualities; (ii) will further the educational value of the monument; (iii) will assist in the conservation and management of the monument; (iv) will allow Native Hawaiian practices; (v) will allow a special ocean use; or (vi) will allow recreational activities.

Findings

1. The Secretaries may not issue any permit unless the Secretaries find:

a. The activity can be conducted with adequate safeguards for the resources and ecological integrity of the monument;

b. The activity will be conducted in a manner compatible with the management direction of this proclamation, considering the extent to which the conduct of the activity may diminish or enhance monument resources, qualities, and ecological integrity, any indirect, secondary, or cumulative effects of the activity, and the duration of such effects;

c. There is no practicable alternative to conducting the activity within the monument;

d. The end value of the activity outweighs its adverse impacts on monument resources, qualities, and ecological integrity;

e. The duration of the activity is no longer than necessary to achieve its stated purpose;

f. The applicant is qualified to conduct and complete the activity and mitigate any potential impacts resulting from its conduct;

g. The applicant has adequate financial resources available to conduct and complete the activity and mitigate any potential impacts resulting from its conduct;

h. The methods and procedures proposed by the applicant are appropriate to achieve the proposed activity's goals in relation to their impacts to monument resources, qualities, and ecological integrity;

i. The applicant's vessel has been outfitted with a mobile transceiver unit approved by OLE and complies with the requirements of this proclamation; and

j. There are no other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.

2. *Additional Findings for Native Hawaiian Practice Permits.* In addition to the findings listed above, the Secretaries shall not issue a permit to allow Native Hawaiian practices unless the Secretaries find:

a. The activity is non-commercial and will not involve the sale of any organism or material collected;

b. The purpose and intent of the activity are appropriate and deemed necessary by traditional standards in the Native Hawaiian culture (*pono*), and demonstrate an understanding of, and background in, the traditional practice, and its associated values and protocols;

c. The activity benefits the resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the Native Hawaiian community;

d. The activity supports or advances the perpetuation of traditional knowledge and ancestral connections of Native Hawaiians to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands; and

e. Any monument resource harvested from the monument will be consumed in the monument.

3. *Additional Findings, Criteria, and Requirements for Special Ocean Use Permits*

a. In addition to the findings listed above, the following requirements apply to the issuance of a permit for a special ocean use:

(i) Any permit for a special ocean use issued under this section:

(A) Shall authorize the conduct of an activity only if that activity is compatible with the purposes for which the monument is designated and with protection of monument resources;

(B) Shall not authorize the conduct of any activity for a period of more than 5 years unless renewed by the Secretaries;

(C) Shall require that activities carried out under the permit be conducted in a manner that does not destroy, cause the loss of, or injure monument resources; and

Armed Forces Actions

1. The prohibitions required by this proclamation shall not apply to activities and exercises of the Armed Forces (including those carried out by the United States Coast Guard) that are consistent with applicable laws.

2. Nothing in this proclamation shall limit agency actions to respond to emergencies posing an unacceptable threat to human health or safety or to the marine environment and admitting of no other feasible solution.

3. All activities and exercises of the Armed Forces shall be carried out in a manner that avoids, to the extent practicable and consistent with operational requirements, adverse impacts on monument resources and qualities.

4. In the event of threatened or actual destruction of, loss of, or injury to a monument resource or quality resulting from an incident, including but not limited to spills and groundings, caused by a component of the Department of Defense or the USCG, the cognizant component shall promptly coordinate with the Secretaries for the purpose of taking appropriate actions to respond to and mitigate the harm and, if possible, restore or replace the monument resource or quality.

Commercial Fishing

1. The Secretaries shall ensure that any commercial lobster fishing permit shall be subject to a zero annual harvest limit.

2. Fishing for bottomfish and pelagic species. The Secretaries shall ensure that:

a. Commercial fishing for bottomfish and associated pelagic species may continue within the monument for not longer than 5 years from the date of this proclamation provided that:

(i) The fishing is conducted in accordance with a valid commercial bottomfish permit issued by NOAA; and

(ii) Such permit is in effect on the date of this proclamation and is subsequently renewed pursuant to NOAA regulations at 50 CFR part 660 subpart E as necessary.

b. Total landings for each fishing year may not exceed the following amounts:

(i) 350,000 pounds for bottomfish species; and

(ii) 180,000 pounds for pelagic species.

c. Commercial fishing for bottomfish and associated pelagic species is prohibited in the monument after 5 years from the date of this proclamation.

General Requirements

The Secretaries shall ensure that any commercial fishing within the monument is conducted in accordance with the following restrictions and conditions:

1. A valid permit or facsimile of a valid permit is on board the fishing vessel and is available for inspection by an authorized officer;

2. No attempt is made to falsify or fail to make, keep, maintain, or submit any logbook or logbook form or other required record or report;

3. Only gear specifically authorized by the relevant permit issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is allowed to be in the possession of a person conducting commercial fishing under this section;

4. Any person conducting commercial fishing notifies the Secretaries by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail at least 72 hours before entering the monument and within 12 hours after leaving the monument;

5. All fishing vessels must carry an activated and functioning VMS unit on board at all times whenever the vessel is in the monument;

6. All fishing vessels must carry an observer when requested to do so by the Secretaries; and

7. The activity does not take place within any Ecological Reserve, any Special Preservation Area, or the Midway Atoll Special Management Area.

Permitting Procedures and Criteria

Subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretaries deem appropriate, a person may conduct an activity regulated by this proclamation if such activity is specifically authorized by a permit. The Secretaries, in their discretion, may issue a permit under this proclamation if the Secretaries find that the activity: (i) is research designed to further

This policy will be driven by the people on the ground. Those are the folks who are going to ultimately make the recommendation that I'll accept. It's important to get advice; I share the advice with our commanders and with Zal. They're the folks who are right there. These are very competent, capable people who understand the Iraqi situation well. And their judgment is important, and I listen very carefully to it—along the same way.

Sheryl [Sheryl Gay Stolberg, New York Times]. Welcome. Got a couple of newcomers today, sitting next to Tapper.

2006 Midterm Elections/Democratic Party

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm pleased to be here. Mr. President, polls show that the public thinks Democrats can do a better job of running the country than Republicans. Are you concerned that Republicans will lose control of Congress in November? And do you think there's anything you could have done differently to put them in a better position, coming up in the midterms?

The President. I remember 2004. At one point, people—you would have stood up and said, "You know, there's no way you can get reelected," if you had been listening to those polls. I can't remember; I was probably down double digits at some point. And they said, "How can you possibly stand here and tell us you're going to get reelected?" Listen, the elections are a long way off. What's going to matter is who has got the plan that will enable us to succeed in Iraq and keep the economy growing. And I look forward to the campaign. And I believe we're going to hold the House and the Senate, because our philosophy is one that is forward-looking and optimistic and has worked. We've got a record to run on.

There's an interesting debate in the Democrat Party about how quick to pull out of Iraq. Pulling out of Iraq before we accomplish the mission will make the world a more dangerous place. It's bad policy. I know it may sound good politically; it will endanger our country to pull out of Iraq before we accomplish the mission.

See, Iraq is a part of the global war on terror. It's not the global war on terror; it's a theater in the global war on terror. And if we fail in Iraq, it's going to embolden Al Qaida types. It will weaken the resolve of moderate nations to stand up to the Islamic fascists. It will cause people to lose their nerve and not stay strong.

And so I look forward to taking the debate—that's not quite right—kind of getting warmed up as a result of your question—the timing is not right for me to get out there yet. But I think the Democrat economic policy of raising people's taxes isn't going to work either. I know they'll couch it in all kinds of language, but really what they're saying is, we're going to raise your taxes.

So, you know, Sheryl, thanks for your question. I don't necessarily buy your premise. I feel confident we will hold the House and the Senate.Q02

Let's see here. Peter [Peter Baker, Washington Post].

CIA Employee Identity Disclosure Investigation

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, when you ran for office for the first time, you said you would hold the White House to a higher ethical standard. Even if Karl Rove did nothing illegal, I wonder whether you can say now whether you approve of his conduct in the CIA leak episode, and do you believe he owes Scott McClellan or anyone else an apology for misleading them?

The President. I appreciate the job that the prosecutor did. I thought he conducted himself well in this investigation. He took a very thorough, long look at allegations and rumors. And I, obviously, along with others in the White House, took a sigh of relief when he made the decision he made. And now we're going to move forward. And I trust Karl Rove, and he's an integral part of my team.

There's an ongoing trial, Peter, and I know the temptation is—not the temptation, you'll keep asking questions during the course of the trial. We're not going to comment beyond that.

Yes. Jim Axelrod [CBS News].

Progress in Iraq/War on Terror

Q. Good morning, Mr. President. You seem quite energized by this moment of opportunity.

The President. No, I'm just fighting off fatigue.

Q. I know the feeling, sir. I'm wondering, though, if there are ever moments of doubt about your decisions and strategy in Iraq. Do you ever have a moment where you feel this just won't end well, that no matter how many Zarqawis are killed, the insurgents are just never going to give up?

The President. Well, one of the reasons I went to Iraq was to be able to sit down with an Iraqi government to determine whether or not they have the will to succeed.

Success in Iraq depends upon the Iraqis. If the Iraqis don't have the will to succeed, they're not going to succeed. We can have all the will we want; I can have all the confidence in the ability for us to bring people to justice, but if they choose not to take the—make the hard decisions and to implement a plan, they're not going to make it. And so one of the things I went to Iraq to do was to, as best as I possibly can, expel any doubt in my mind as to whether or not we have a partner that is going to do the hard work.

One of the interesting things that—and by the way, I believe we will have a partner to do the hard work. I made it clear to the Government there that it's up to them to succeed. It's really up to them to put a plan in place and execute it. We'll help, but it's—they were elected by the people; they're living under a Constitution that the people endorsed; and they have to follow through.

And that's why I was most interested in hearing the Prime Minister's plans on electricity and energy and security. As I mentioned to you, there's an operation now going on in Baghdad that he helped put together, that we're helping him on. He recognizes that the capital city of a country sends important signals to the rest of the country—the security of the capital city—to the country and the world. He knows that. And that's why he has worked out a robust plan, with our help.

And so doubts about whether or not this Government can—has got the will to go forward was expelled. That's why I went. In other words, sitting here in America, wondering whether or not these people have got what it takes can create uncertainty. I've eliminated that uncertainty. I was able to sit with the man and talk to him.

I was also pleased to meet with his Cabinet. You might remember, it wasn't all that long ago that there were some doubts in people's minds as to whether or not this Government had the capacity to put a unity government—as a matter of fact, there was doubts after the first election as to whether or not a portion of the population would even participate in the elections. And last December a lot of folks voted, from all different aspects of society, and the Government reflects that. And that was important for me to see firsthand as well.

The enemy has an advantage in this war, because they can get on our TV screens every day. And of course, it upsets me when I see the loss of innocent life, and it upsets me to know that our service men and women are losing their lives. I'm like most Americans, it is—death affects my way of thinking. But I also understand the stakes of this war, see. I understand how important it is to defeat the enemy. Now, I recognize some in the country don't feel that same sense of urgency I do. But Al Qaida is real; their philosophy is a real philosophy; they have ambitions. Their stated goal is to drive us out of Iraq before a government can defend itself and govern itself and sustain itself, so they can have safe haven from which to launch further attacks. And my most important job is to protect the American people from harm. And I understand the stakes of this war, and I understand this battlefront in Iraq.

And I want to repeat something: Iraq is not the only part of this war. It's an essential part, but it's not the only part of the war on terror. And so the decisions I make are all aimed at protecting the American people and understanding the vast stakes involved. If the United States of America leaves before this Iraqi Government can defend itself and sustain itself and govern itself, it will be a major blow in the war on terror. Al Qaida will benefit. And make no mistake about it, they still want to do innocent people harm, whether it be in the Middle East or whether

monument area 45 days after the publication of the list of approved transmitting devices described in paragraph (1) above;

b. Failing to install, activate, repair, or replace a mobile transceiver unit prior to leaving port;

c. Failing to operate and maintain a mobile transceiver unit on board the vessel at all times;

d. Tampering with, damaging, destroying, altering, or in any way distorting, rendering useless, inoperative, ineffective, or inaccurate the VMS, mobile transceiver unit, or VMS signal required to be installed on or transmitted by a vessel;

e. Failing to contact OLE or follow OLE instructions when automatic position reporting has been interrupted;

f. Registering a VMS or mobile transceiver unit registered to more than one vessel at the same time;

g. Connecting or leaving connected additional equipment to a VMS unit or mobile transceiver unit without the prior approval of OLE;

h. Making a false statement, oral or written, to an authorized officer regarding the installation, use, operation, or maintenance of a VMS unit or mobile transceiver unit or communication service provider.

Restrictions

Prohibited Activities

The Secretaries shall prohibit persons from conducting or causing to be conducted the following activities:

1. Exploring for, developing, or producing oil, gas, or minerals within the monument;

2. Using or attempting to use poisons, electrical charges, or explosives in the collection or harvest of a monument resource;

3. Introducing or otherwise releasing an introduced species from within or into the monument; and

4. Anchoring on or having a vessel anchored on any living or dead coral with an anchor, anchor chain, or anchor rope.

Regulated Activities

Except as otherwise provided in this proclamation, the Secretaries shall prohibit any person from conducting or causing to be conducted within the monument the following activities:

1. Removing, moving, taking, harvesting, possessing, injuring, disturbing, or damaging; or attempting to remove, move, take, harvest, possess, injure, disturb, or damage any living or nonliving monument resource;

2. Drilling into, dredging, or otherwise altering the submerged lands other than by anchoring a vessel; or constructing, placing, or abandoning any structure, material, or other matter on the submerged lands;

3. Anchoring a vessel;

4. Deserting a vessel aground, at anchor, or adrift;

5. Discharging or depositing any material or other matter into Special Preservation Areas or the Midway Atoll Special Management Area except vessel engine cooling water, weather deck runoff, and vessel engine exhaust;

6. Discharging or depositing any material or other matter into the monument, or discharging or depositing any material or other matter outside of the monument that subsequently enters the monument and injures any resources of the monument, except fish parts (i.e., chumming material or bait) used in and during authorized fishing operations, or discharges incidental to vessel use such as deck wash, approved marine sanitation device effluent, cooling water, and engine exhaust;

7. Touching coral, living or dead;

8. Possessing fishing gear except when stowed and not available for immediate use during passage without interruption through the monument;

9. Swimming, snorkeling, or closed or open circuit SCUBA diving within any Special Preservation Area or the Midway Atoll Special Management Area; and

10. Attracting any living monument resources.

Emergencies and Law Enforcement Activities

The prohibitions required by this proclamation shall not apply to activities necessary to respond to emergencies threatening life, property, or the environment, or to activities necessary for law enforcement purposes.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to diminish or enlarge the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights and use of the monument shall be administered as follows:

Access to the Monument

The Secretaries shall prohibit entering the monument except pursuant to permission granted by the Secretaries or their designees. Any person passing through the monument without interruption must notify an official designated by the Secretaries at least 72 hours, but no longer than 1 month, prior to the entry date. Notification of departure from the monument must be provided within 12 hours of leaving. A person providing notice must provide the following information, as applicable: (i) position when making report; (ii) vessel name and International Maritime Organization identification number; (iii) name, address, and telephone number of owner and operator; (iv) United States Coast Guard (USCG) documentation, State license, or registration number; (v) home port; (vi) intended and actual route through the monument; (vii) general categories of any hazardous cargo on board; and (viii) length of vessel and propulsion type (e.g., motor or sail).

Vessel Monitoring Systems

1. As soon as possible but not later than 30 days following the issuance of this proclamation, NOAA shall publish in the *Federal Register* a list of approved transmitting units and associated communications service providers for purposes of this proclamation. An owner or operator of a vessel that has been issued a permit for accessing the monument must ensure that such a vessel has an operating vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board, approved by the Office of Legal Enforcement in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Department of Commerce (OLE) when voyaging within the monument. An operating VMS includes an operating mobile transmitting unit on the vessel and a functioning communication link between the unit and OLE as provided by an OLE-approved communication service provider.

2. Only a VMS that has been approved by OLE may be used. When installing and activating the OLE-approved VMS, or when reinstalling and reactivating such VMS, the vessel owner or operator must:

   a. Follow procedures indicated on an installation and activation checklist, which is available from OLE; and
   b. Submit to OLE a statement certifying compliance with the checklist, as prescribed on the checklist.

3. No person may interfere with, tamper with, alter, damage, disable, or impede the operation of the VMS, or attempt any of the same.

4. When a vessel's VMS is not operating properly, the owner or operator must immediately contact OLE, and follow instructions from that office. If notified by OLE that a vessel's VMS is not operating properly, the owner and operator must follow instructions from that office. In either event, such instructions may include, but are not limited to, manually communicating to a location designated by OLE the vessel's positions or returning to port until the VMS is operable.

5. As a condition of authorized access to the monument, a vessel owner or operator subject to the requirements for a VMS in this section must allow OLE, the USCG, and their authorized officers and designees access to the vessels position data obtained from the VMS. Consistent with applicable law, including the limitations on access to, and use, of VMS data collected under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Secretaries may have access to, and use of, collected data for scientific, statistical, and management purposes.

6. OLE has authority over the installation and operation of the VMS unit. OLE may authorize the connection or order the disconnection of additional equipment, including a computer, to any VMS unit, when deemed appropriate by OLE.

7. The Secretaries shall prohibit any person from conducting or causing to be conducted:

   a. Operating any vessel without an approved transmitting device within the

it be here in the United States of America. The stakes are high in Iraq.

And my trip over there gave me confidence that we have a partner that is capable of setting priority and developing a plan to meet those priorities, and then following through to see that those priorities are met. And my assurances to him were, you get good plans and you have the desire to follow through; we'll help you. We'll help you. We will do what it takes to help you succeed. It's in our national interest to do so.

Let's see here. Bret [Bret Baier, FOX News].

Iraqi Government

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Could you characterize the worry you heard from Iraqi leaders about U.S. troop levels that you first mentioned on the flight home from Iraq? And here in the Rose Garden a week ago, you said that Zarqawi's death is an opportunity for Iraq's new Government to turn the tide in this struggle. After your visit, do you truly believe that the tide is turning in Iraq?

The President. First part of the question? I'm sorry.

Q. About the worry that you——

The President. Yes. No question, there are concerns about whether or not the United States will stand with this Government. And I can understand why. You know, ours is a society that encourages debate, and people are free to express themselves. And they do so; they say, "Look, this is my view of how we ought to go forward; this is what I think." And the willingness of some to say that "If we're in power, we'll withdraw on a set timetable," concerns people in Iraq, because they understand our coalition forces provide a sense of stability, so they can address old wrongs and develop their strategy and plan to move forward. They need our help, and they recognize that. And so they are concerned about that.

And I'm concerned that an enemy will hear the wrong message. And then I'm also concerned that there are people inside Iraq who have yet to make up their mind as to whether or not they want to help this Government succeed, or maybe, or just maybe America will lose its nerve and, therefore, something else, a new team may show up. And so I made it very clear to the Iraqis, and I'm going to make it clear to them again right here that we're going—we'll stay with them and help them succeed.

I know there is a lot of discussion about troop levels. Those troop levels will be decided upon by General Casey. He will make the recommendations, in consultation with an Iraqi government. But whatever decision General Casey makes, the message is going to be, "We stand with you." In other words, if you're more capable, it requires less troops, but nevertheless, we're still with you.

Other part?

Q. Is the tide turning in Iraq?

The President. I think—tide turning—see, as I remember—I was raised in the desert, but tides kind of—it's easy to see a tide turn—did I say those words?

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Yes, I probably ought to then reflect on those words and think that—I sense something different happening in Iraq. The progress will be steady toward a goal that has clearly been defined. In other words, I hope there's not an expectation from people that, all of a sudden, there's going to be zero violence—in other words, it's just not going to be the case. On the other hand, I do think we'll be able to measure progress. You can measure progress in capacity of Iraqi units. You can measure progress in megawatts of electricity delivered. You can measure progress in terms of oil sold on the market on behalf of the Iraqi people. There's ways to determine whether or not this Government's plans are succeeding.

But I know there's a tangible difference between the Government that is now in place and previous governments, and the reason why is because this is a government that's formed under elections and a Constitution. And it's a unity government, and so people have a sense of—they're pulling for their Government to succeed. And the reason why is, by far, the vast majority of Iraqis want a normal life. They want their children to be able to go out in the street and play. They want there to be a good education system. They want to be able to have their business—their little storefront business flourish without fear of bombing. That's what they want.

And so they're pulling for this Government to succeed. And it's a government that they elected. It's not a government that we appointed; it's a government that they elected. They have a vital stake in the future of this Government. And so there is a noticeable change. And whoever said it's a tide turning, and all that needs—never mind. [*Laughter*]

Elaine [Elaine Quijano, Cable News Network].

President's Visit to Iraq

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. What kind of signal do you think it sends to the Iraqi people that your administration notified the leader of Iraq's sovereign Government only 5 minutes beforehand of your arrival? And was there a specific security concern about either Prime Minister Maliki's inner circle or others that led you to make that decision?

The President. No, I think—look, it's a security concern because I'm a high-value target for some. And Iraq is a dangerous place. The American people have got to know that I will take precautions when I travel somewhere. I'm not going to put our Government at risk to achieve a very important trip. And therefore, we were—a lot of people didn't know about it. Half my Cabinet didn't know about it. Does that mean I'm going to run them off? No. I just—we want to make sure we're extra secret about this deal. And the reason why is, Iraq is dangerous. It's a dangerous place. And I think if there was ample notification that I was coming, perhaps it would have given somebody a chance to plan, and we just didn't want to take that risk.

There is no question about Prime Minister Maliki's—when he walked in, I never—I didn't fear. I was happy to see him, and he was happy to see me. But you should expect the President to be—to take precaution. I take precaution when I go somewhere here in the United States. Obviously, not to that extent, but nevertheless, we're careful. And that's what the people expect, us to be careful.

I appreciate the efforts that went into this trip. There are a lot of people that worked hard to make sure this worked. And it worked well. It was a good trip. And it was an exciting trip, by the way. I was up there in the cockpit of that airplane coming into Baghdad, watching Colonel Tillman steer us in. It was an unbelievable, unbelievable feeling. And walking into that ballroom there in Saddam's old palace, to see our—see our people on the frontlines of changing history was an exciting moment for me. It's a thrill to be able to shake their hands and look them in the eye and tell them America appreciates what they're doing. I really, really appreciated the fact that I was able to go and—no matter how secret it was.

McKinnon [John McKinnon, Wall Street Journal].

Progress in Iraq

Q. Thank you, sir. You just mentioned that you think the United States will be able to measure progress in terms of electricity and oil and violence. And I'm wondering if you can say how you're going to measure that in terms of time. In other words, are you going to put a 6-month timeframe on this, or a 12-month timeframe on this?

The President. John, I know—look, I understand the pressures to put timetables out there on everything. And my answer to you is, is that we will work with the Iraqi Government to do what's realistic. And the people on the ground will help me understand what is realistic. We will know whether or not the Government is capable of following through because we're going to help them follow through.

The answer to electricity is, sooner the better. It's hot over there, and it would be helpful if people had the capacity to cool their homes. It would be a pretty good signal that the Government is making a difference in somebody's life.

There are certain projects that are easier to achieve than others. Fixing the infrastructure of the northern Iraq oil fields is going to be more difficult to do. It's old; it's tired; it's been destroyed by an enemy. And it's going to take a while to get that done, and so we've got to be realistic with this Government. There is a—but, nevertheless, I do believe that it makes sense to develop, with them, benchmarks, so we can measure progress. And once those are in place, and to the extent they are, we'll be glad to share them with you.

discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

Whereas it would be in the public interest to preserve the marine area of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and certain lands as necessary for the care and management of the historic and scientific objects therein,

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument (the "monument" or "national monument") for the purpose of protecting the objects described above, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States within the boundaries described on the accompanying map entitled "Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument" attached to and forming a part of this proclamation. The Federal land and interests in land reserved includes approximately 139,793 square miles of emergent and submerged lands and waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, including, but not limited to, withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

The Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will have primary responsibility regarding management of the marine areas, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior, through the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), will have sole responsibility for management of the areas of the monument that overlay the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, the Battle of Midway National Memorial, and the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce.

The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior (collectively, the "Secretaries") shall review and, as appropriate, modify the interagency agreement developed for coordinated management of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, signed on May 19, 2006. To manage the monument, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Hawaii, shall modify, as appropriate, the plan developed by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program through the public sanctuary designation process, and will provide for public review of that plan. To the extent authorized by law, the Secretaries, acting through the FWS and NOAA, shall promulgate any additional regulations needed for the proper care and management of the objects identified above.

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretaries, shall take appropriate action to enter into negotiations with other governments to make necessary arrangements for the protection of the monument and to promote the purposes for which the monument is established. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretaries, shall seek the cooperation of other governments and international organizations in furtherance of the purposes of this proclamation and consistent with applicable regional and multilateral arrangements for the protection and management of special marine areas. Furthermore, this proclamation shall be applied in accordance with international law. No restrictions shall apply to or be enforced against a person who is not a citizen, national, or resident alien of the United States (including foreign flag vessels) unless in accordance with international law.

Congress needs to move forward with my administration's plan to build a well-managed system of offshore aquaculture. Aquaculture or "fish farming" uses pens in the ocean—open ocean to feed and grow shrimp, shellfish, and many other types of fish. And when we get this right, these farmed fish can provide a healthy source of food and reduce pressure on the ocean ecosystems.

In the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, we're also preserving an historic landmark of great importance. Near the northern edge of these islands lies Midway Island, the site of one of the most decisive battles of World War II. On this atoll, there's a memorial to the sacrifice and valor of those who fought in the Pacific theater during World War II. This national monument will have special access area around Midway Island. That's what we want. We want people to go and pay homage to those who sacrifice for our freedom.

Third, the new national monument creates a new opportunity for ocean education and research for decades to come. Successful ocean stewardship depends on informed policy makers and an informed public. One of the key priorities of the Ocean Action Plan is promoting ocean education. Jean-Michel put it this way, he said, "How can we protect what we don't understand?" Ninety-five percent of our planet's oceans have yet to be explored. We're just beginning to appreciate what the seas have to offer humanity. The waters of this new national monument will be a living laboratory that offers new opportunities to discover new life, that helps us better manage our ocean ecosystems, and allows us to pursue advances in science.

You know, in America, there's a great consensus that we have an obligation to be good stewards of the environment. Success of a generation is not defined by wealth alone. We also will be measured by the respect we give to the precious creatures of our natural world.

We have great choices before us in this country. And with the designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Island Marine National Monument, we are making a choice that will leave a precious legacy.

I want to thank you all for joining us today. It's an historic moment. Thank you all for your leadership. And may God bless the country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:34 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Linda Lingle of Hawaii; and oceanographer Jean-Michel Cousteau.

Proclamation—Establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument

June 15, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In the Pacific Ocean northwest of the principal islands of Hawaii lies an approximately 1,200 nautical mile stretch of coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals. The area, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, the Midway National Wildlife Refuge, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and the Battle of Midway National Memorial, supports a dynamic reef ecosystem with more than 7,000 marine species, of which approximately half are unique to the Hawaiian Island chain. This diverse ecosystem is home to many species of coral, fish, birds, marine mammals, and other flora and fauna including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the threatened green sea turtle, and the endangered leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles. In addition, this area has great cultural significance to Native Hawaiians and a connection to early Polynesian culture worthy of protection and understanding.

Whereas Executive Order 13089 of June 11, 1998, Executive Order 13178 of December 4, 2000, and Executive Order 13196 of January 18, 2001, as well as the process for designation of a National Marine Sanctuary undertaken by the Secretary of Commerce, have identified objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States in the area of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands;

Whereas section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431) (the "Antiquities Act") authorizes the President, in his

Part of my visit yesterday was a strategy session, to sit down with a partner, the Prime Minister, Maliki, to figure out how to move forward, to listen to his plans and how we can help his plans. The important thing for me to hear from him is, "Here's what I intend to do," he says; not, "Here's what we want you to do," like the oil suggestion. I really meant what I said; it was just a suggestion. It wasn't, "You must do this." And same with the electricity. And he made a point to have his Electricity Minister brief my Cabinet, because he wanted us to know that he has a plan to put in place. The guy, by the way, said, "I need your help." And we'll provide the help as best as we can.

You know, the ultimate judge about whether this Government is making a difference is going to be the Iraqi people, and these elected officials know that. That's the great thing about being elected; you get a sense if people don't, kind of, like what you're doing—or not. And democracy causes you to respond to the people's needs. Tyrants don't have to. They don't have—sometimes they may have to, but they always have got kind of an interesting way of helping suppress dissent. This elected Government is going to have to respond to the people, and that's a big change.

Remember that Saddam did a really good job of milking the society to keep himself in power. In other words, the infrastructure is destroyed, or a lot of it is destroyed and dilapidated. We heard that over and over again in Baghdad. People said, "You've got to understand how backward we are compared to where we want to be." And he divided society and pitted people against each other in order to justify his own presence. And we're having to deal with that. The Iraqis are having to deal with that.

And I was impressed by their willingness to be up front about the past. And it's going to be difficult work, no question about it. There are still resentments and bitterness, and people wondering, does the future belong to them. The Sunni—I was impressed, by the way, by the Speaker—Denny Hastert told me I'd like him; Denny met with him. And I was impressed by him. He's a fellow that had been put in prison by Saddam and, interestingly enough, put in prison by us. And he made a decision to participate in the Government. And he was an articulate person. He talked about running the Parliament. It was interesting to see a person that could have been really bitter talk about the skills he's going to need to bring people together to run the Parliament. And I found him to be a hopeful person.

They tell me that he wouldn't have taken my phone call a year ago—I think I might have shared this with you at one point in time—and there I was, sitting next to the guy. And I think he enjoyed it as much as I did. It was a refreshing moment. And the Deputy Speaker was there as well.

Let's see here. Ann [Ann Compton, ABC News].

Iraqi Government

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Yesterday while you were gone, Senator Kerry, who was your challenger in the last election——

The President. I remember that.

Q. You remember that. [*Laughter*] He said he now regrets his votes on the war. And, actually, I think Senator Clinton at the same meeting, actually heard some boos when she said that she did not support a timetable for withdrawal. Do you see, as some of your critics do, a parallel between what's going on in Iraq now and Vietnam?

The President. No.

Q. Why?

The President. Because there's a duly elected government; 12 million people voted. They said, "We want something different from tyranny; we want to live in a free society." And not only did they vote for a government; they voted for a Constitution. Obviously, there is sectarian violence, but this is, in many ways, religious in nature, and I don't see the parallels.

You know, look—I thought you were going to ask, do I regret what I did. Absolutely not. I made the right decision in Iraq. It's the right thing to get rid of Saddam Hussein. And now it's the right thing to stand with this Government when they build a new democracy. And I reminded the Iraqi people, their democracy doesn't have to look like us. It's their country, and the Government ought to reflect their traditions and their history. All

we expect is, people to be treated with respect and there to be self-governance in a way that tolerates differences of opinion.

Yes, Peter [Peter Wallsten, Los Angeles Times]. Are you going to ask that question with shades on?

CIA Employee Identity Disclosure Investigation

Q. I can take them off.

The President. I'm interested in the shade look, seriously.

Q. All right, I'll keep it then.

The President. For the viewers, there's no sun. [*Laughter*]

Q. I guess it depends on your perspective. [*Laughter*]

The President. Touche. [*Laughter*]

Q. Following up on the other Peter's question about Karl Rove, you said you were relieved with what happened yesterday. But the American public, over the course of this investigation, has learned a lot about what was going on in your White House that they didn't know before, during that time, the way some people were trying to go after Joe Wilson, in some ways. I'm wondering if, over the course of this investigation, that you have learned anything that you didn't know before about what was going on in your administration. And do you have any work to do to rebuild credibility that might have been lost?

The President. I think that—first of all, the decision by the prosecutor speaks for itself. He had a full investigation. Karl Rove went in front of the grand jury like—I don't—a lot of times. More times than—they took a hard look at his role.

Secondly, as I told the other Peter, I'm going to tell you that there's an ongoing trial; it's a serious business. And I've made the comments I'm going to make about this incident, and I'm going to put this part of the situation behind us and move forward.

Let's see here—yes, sure. Richard [Richard Bennadetto, USA Today].

Public Opinion on Iraq/War on Terror

Q. Mr. President, the death of Zarqawi and the formation of the new Government in Iraq has given you a chance to re-engage the American people on Iraq. A majority of the people still say that the war was a mistake. Do you think that the people have turned off on Iraq? Or do you think they're still winnable back, to consider that it was worth it?

The President. I think the people want to know, can we win? That's what they want to know. Listen, admittedly, there are a group of people in our country that say, "It wasn't worth it; get out now." And that opinion is being expressed. As these campaigns start approaching, you'll hear more people say, I suspect, "It's a mistake; Bush shouldn't have done what he did; pull out." And that's a legitimate debate to have in America, and I look forward to the debate. I will remind the American people, if we pull out before we achieve our objective, the world will be a lot more dangerous and America will be more at risk.

Then there are some in the country that say, "We understand the stakes, but do they have a plan to win, can they possibly win?" And I will continue to explain to the American people, winning means a government that can sustain itself, defend itself, and govern itself, and an ally in the war on terror. And we will help this Government do that. And one of the reasons I went to Iraq was to determine whether or not we have a partner which is capable of making the tough decisions necessary to achieve our objective.

The American people have got to understand that Iraq is a part of the war on terror. Now, Richard, I fully understand how people might have made the decision that America is no longer under threat or the lessons of September the 11th were just momentary lessons. I can understand that. But I have a responsibility to lay out what I believe. And the lessons learned from September the 11th are still an integral part of my thinking, and I'll continue to make decisions based upon the lessons.

And I know there is an international jihadist movement that desires to do us harm, and they have territorial ambitions. The reason I know that is, that's what they've told us. And part of their territorial ambition is to have safe haven in Iraq. That's what they've said. That's what the enemy has clearly said. And it seems like to me that the Commander in Chief ought to listen to what the enemy says. And they believe capitalists and

We will preserve access for native Hawaiian cultural activities. As part of the proclamation, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce will work with the State of Hawaii and the public to develop a plan to manage the monument. This proclamation will also charge NOAA to use its expertise to oversee the new marine areas and the Fish and Wildlife Service to apply their skills to the wildlife refuge areas.

Within the boundaries of the monument, we will prohibit unauthorized passage of ships; we will prohibit unauthorized recreational or commercial activity; we will prohibit any resource extraction or dumping of waste. And over a 5-year period, we will phase out commercial fishing as well. For sea birds and sea life, this unique region will be a sanctuary for them to grow and to thrive. And for the American people, it will be a place that honors our responsibility to protect our natural resources.

This new monument shows what cooperative conservation can accomplish. My administration is committed to working in a spirit of respect and cooperation with those seeking to protect our land and sea and sky. We believe cooperative conservation is the best way to protect the environment. This means we must focus on the needs of States and respect the unique knowledge of local authorities and welcome the help of private groups and volunteers.

Through cooperative conservation, we're moving away from the old environmental debates that pit one group against another and towards a system that brings citizens of every level of government together to get results. In the northwest Hawaiian Islands, we have worked with Governor Lingle and State officials and native Hawaiian leaders to ensure, first and foremost, that they wanted the monument and, secondly, to make sure that we protect the cultural and historical heritage of these islands.

For more than 1,000 years, native Hawaiians sailed these waters and visited these islands as part of sacred journeys. The islands are dotted with archeological treasures and traditional sites of worship. This monument will protect the cultural ties that native Hawaiians have to these lands and waters. We respect these natives' beliefs, and this monument will safeguard both the natural and spiritual treasures of the region. And for this reason, we will consult with native Hawaiian leaders to give this monument a native Hawaiian name.

Protecting the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, volunteers play an important part. Jean-Michel taught us that in his movie. Through a major Federal-State partnership, volunteer divers work together to remove nets and gear that have been abandoned by fishermen. In one year alone, divers removed more than 120 tons of this derelict fishing gear. To fight the destructive effects of abandoned nets and other debris, the Ocean Action Plan directed the Coast Guard and EPA and NOAA and the State Department and the Interior Department to coordinate efforts to improve how the Federal Government tracks, prevents, and cleans up maritime waste. And we've got more work to do. And I expect these agencies to be robust in our efforts to prevent this kind of debris from polluting our—polluting this sanctuary, this monument.

We're going to work together with volunteers to make our oceans safer for marine life. And to give this remote and special place our Nation's highest level of protection—as we give it this kind of protection, we're also reminded of our responsibility to be wise managers of marine resources living off every coast. And that's why we're working to end overfishing. Overfishing is harmful. It's harmful to our country, and it's harmful to the world.

To protect our marine ecosystem and the future fishing of all kinds, the Ocean Action Plan calls for Congress to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. They need to get that done. This act would provide enhanced authority to work with regional fish councils to build an improved market-based system to restore our fisheries. I like to fish, and I expect this Government of ours to protect the fisheries so sports people can fish and get a good catch. That's why I'm glad the sportsmen are here—sportfishing people are here. You know, you just got to understand, we're going to listen to you. It's in the Nation's interest that we have a robust recreational fishing industry.

signing of this important proclamation. Sherry Boehlert is here from the great State of New York—a strong conservationist. Welcome, Congressman. I'm glad you're here. I appreciate Senator Fred Hemmings from—he's a minority leader, by the way, of the Hawaiian State senate. Thanks for coming. I'm glad you're here.

I appreciate Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary Carlos Gutierrez. I want to thank Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher of NOAA. Thanks for coming. Appreciate your hard work on this issue. As you will hear a little later on, NOAA will be playing an important part of this national monument.

I want to thank Jean-Michel Cousteau for joining us. He just showed me a picture of another President—well, two fathers kind of gathered together. And it's proud for two sons to be carrying on the legacy of conservation. He's made a really important movie that I hope people watch about the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. I think the American people will understand better about why I made the decision I made when they see the movie that Jean-Michel has produced.

I want to thank Sylvia Earle. She's a marine biologist. She's explorer in residence of the National Geographic Society. It was during the showing of the movie that she sat me down and gave me a pretty good lecture about life. [*Laughter*] She actually invited me to spend a week with her under the seas. [*Laughter*] There's some in Congress who would like me to spend my lifetime under the seas. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Mike Nussman; he's the president and CEO of American Sportfishing Association. Thanks for coming, Mike. I want to thank the guests from the environmental community who are here today. Thanks for your hard work on this vital issue.

The vibrant beauty of the oceans is a blessing to our country. And it's a blessing to the world. The oceans contain countless natural treasures. They carry much of our trade; they provide food and recreation for billions of people. We have a responsibility, a solemn responsibility to be good stewards of the oceans and the creatures who inhabit them.

In 2004, my administration released an Ocean Action Plan to promote an ethic of responsible use and stewardship for our oceans and coastal resources. By establishing this new national monument, we implement an important part of our plan, and we accomplish three goals for the nation: First, this new national monument will honor our commitment to be good stewards of America's natural resources.

Our duty is to use the land and seas wisely or, sometimes, not use them at all. Good stewardship of the environment is not just a personal responsibility, it is a public value. Americans are united in the belief that we must preserve our natural heritage and safeguard the environment. This belief has affirmed our laws, and today we reaffirm that commitment once again.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are a beautiful and special place. The 10 islands and atolls stretch over 1,400 miles. That's the distance from Chicago to Miami. In the tropical waters surrounding the archipelago, there are more than 4,500 square miles of coral reef habitat thriving under the surface. Think about that—4,500 square miles of coral reef. These undersea forests and mountain ranges comprise the largest remote reef system in the world. And this region holds the largest and healthiest untouched coral reef system in the United States. And we're going to preserve it.

These reefs burst with life, great predators like the white tip reef shark and the spinner dolphins and the Trevally jacks. The archipelago is home to more than 7,000 marine species. That's a quarter of which are found nowhere else on the world. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are also the primary home for nearly 1,400 surviving Hawaiian monk seals. That's virtually the entire population of this critically endangered species. They are the breeding grounds for approximately 90 percent of the threatened Hawaiian Island green sea turtle population.

I think you're beginning to get a feel for why I made the decision I made. The national monument we're establishing today covers nearly 140,000 square miles. To put this area in context, this national monument is more than 100 times larger than Yosemite National Park, larger than 46 of our 50 States, and more than 7 times larger than all our national marine sanctuaries combined. This is a big deal.

democratic societies are soft, and it's a matter of time before we pull out.

And that's why one message that I will continue to send to the enemy is, don't count on us leaving before the mission is complete. Don't bet on it; don't bet on American politics forcing my hand, because it's not going to happen. I'm going to make decisions not based upon politics but based upon what's best for the United States of America.

But I understand why people, Richard, are concerned, because progress is hard to see. You know, it's one thing to say, "We've got Zarqawi;" that's progress; it's another thing to say, "I met with the man, and I believe he can make the right decisions." And so somebody is going to say, "Sure, well, show me." And I understand that. And I understand how tough it is for the American people to reconcile death on their TV screens with the President saying, we're making incremental progress toward an important goal. But what I hope they understand is how important it is we succeed in Iraq, that the country is more dangerous if we don't—the world is more dangerous if we don't succeed.

And so I'm going to keep talking about it and talking about—because I believe passionately we're doing the right thing. And I've told the American people this: If I didn't think we could succeed and if I didn't think it was worth it, I'd pull our troops out. And I mean that.

And one reason I went to Iraq yesterday, no matter how secretive the trip was, was to get a firsthand feel for how those people are thinking over there, what are they like. I understand leadership. Leadership requires determination. You've got to be determined to do something in order to be able to lead, particularly in difficult circumstances. You've got to have will. You've got to have desire to succeed, and you've got to have a plan. And that's what I found in Iraq.

It's really important that the Iraqi people have no doubt in their mind that we will help this Government succeed. It's important for them to understand that. And I know there's going to be different voices, and there should be different voices out of America. That's where we're great. That's what makes us interesting and great; people can say whatever they want to say as they try to attract votes. But my voice—what you hear from me, no matter what these polls and all the business look like, is that it's worth it, it is necessary, and we will succeed.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 9:45 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Minister of Defense Abd al-Qadir al-Mufriji, Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bulani, Minister of Electricity Karim Wahid al-Hasan, Speaker of the Council of Representatives Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, and Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives Khaled Atea of Iraq; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, who was killed in Baquba, Iraq, on June 7; Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad; Robert M. Kimmit, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois and Department of Justice CIA leak investigation Special Prosecutor; and Col. Mark Tillman, USAF, commander, Presidential Airlift Group. A reporter referred to former Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV, who served as CIA envoy to Niger in February, 2002.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia

June 14, 2006

President Bush. Thank you all for coming. It's my honor to welcome back to the Oval Office *mi amigo, el Presidente.* Mr. President, we're glad you're here. This is my first chance to be able to congratulate the President for a very strong victory. I asked him what it's like to win with a lot of votes. [*Laughter*] He was obviously a good campaigner that had a message that the Colombian people appreciated. So first of all, congratulations for a grand victory.

President Uribe is a personal friend. I'm able to talk very frankly with him about a variety of subjects. I told him that one of the things I admire is, he's a strong believer in democracy, human rights, human dignity. He's got a tough job in dealing with narcoterrorist groups in his country, but he's committed to dealing firmly with narcoterrorism. He's committed to helping reconcile past differences. He's committed

to helping people get back into society. And I appreciate those commitments. He's committed to human rights.

We talked about trade. We negotiated a free trade agreement. We've still got some details to work out, but we committed ourselves to working out those details and try to get this done as quickly as we can. I will submit the agreement to Congress once it gets done, and I would hope members of both political parties understand the importance of a free trade agreement with this vital ally of ours.

We talked about the neighborhood. We talked about—he came from a meeting with some of the Andean neighbors, and he brought messages, and he shared some thoughts with me. I appreciate strategizing with the President about how to make sure our neighborhood is a peaceful and hopeful place.

I told President Uribe that one of the things I will do a better job of is communicating to the people of South America and Central America my country's desire to promote justice and education and health. We spend about $1.6 billion a year in Central and South America. I want the people to understand that money is meant to help them, to help improve their lives. I want the people to understand America is a considerate country, that we care about justice.

And so, Mr. President, I am really pleased you're here. It's good to see you again. And again, congratulations on a great victory.

President Uribe. Thank you, Mr. President. I want to repeat my gratitude to your Government, to you personally, to your Congress, to the U.S. public opinion, for the permanent support of my country. I appreciate your friendship, your permanent advice, and we have many challenges before us.

One challenge is that Colombia can overcome this long nightmare of terrorism. I understand the mandate my fellow country citizens have given me to work harder and with better results for my country to get peace, and the United States cooperation is necessary.

In the last 2 years, we have not gotten the—[*inaudible*]—result in dropping the areas with illegal drugs. One point we have studied this morning with President Bush is how to speed up the eradication of drugs, because we need to show better results in this area.

And of course, as President Bush has informed to you, we spoke about our free trade agreement and some pending points. And we spoke about the necessity in Colombia and in all the Central American and South American countries to improve social cohesion. For I thank President Bush, he's willing—his willingness and determination to help us in education, in social issues, because we need to conduct hand in hand our fight against terrorism with our fight to create social cohesion, not only in Colombia but in the whole region as well.

President Bush. *Gracias, amigo.* Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Iraq Study Group

June 14, 2006

I want to thank a distinguished group of Americans, led by Jim Baker and Lee Hamilton, for your willingness to look at the way forward in Iraq and to provide advice to the administration, to the Congress, and to the American people about the proper strategies and tactics to achieve success.

Iraq is a complex situation. It is vital that we succeed. And the fact that you all are willing to lend your expertise to help chart the way forward means a lot. And I can't thank you enough. We've got Republicans at the table; we've got Democrats at the table; we've got people who've served in the administration, administrations past, our court system, and the legislative branch. And you bring a lot of expertise and a lot of knowledge, and the fact that you're willing to lend your expertise and knowledge to help our country means a lot.

Once again, you've been called to serve, and once again, you are serving, and we thank you for that a lot. Appreciate you very much.

bill. We make this promise to American miners and their families: We'll do everything possible to prevent mine accidents and make sure you're able to return safely to your loved ones.

The bill I'm about to sign is an important part of the effort. The MINER Act will build on the Mine Safety and Health Administration's ongoing efforts to enhance mine safety training, to improve safety and communications technology for miners, and provide more emergency supplies of breathable air along escape routes.

This new legislation will require mine operators to report any life-threatening accident no later than 15 minutes after they know that one has occurred. And to ensure compliance with the law, the MINER Act will increase the maximum penalty for flagrant violations of mine safety regulations nearly fourfold.

To implement this new legislation, we need effective and experienced leadership at the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Last month, I named, or nominated Richard Stickler of the State of West Virginia to be the head of MSHA. He's got experience. He served for 6 years as the Director of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Deep Mine Safety. He was a miner, mine shift foreman, a superintendent, and a manager, and the Senate needs to confirm Richard Stickler to this key position.

America's miners work hard every day to support their families and support this country. It's hard work. You deserve the best training, the best equipment, and safeguards that we can provide to protect the lives. And this good legislation I'm signing today is an important part of honoring that commitment.

May God bless you all. May God bless our miners and their families, and may God continue to bless our country. And now it's my honor to sign the MINER Act into law.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:23 a.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia; Gov. Ernie Fletcher of Kentucky; and Gov. Edward G. Rendell of Pennsylvania. S. 2803, approved June 15, was assigned Public Law No. 109–236.

Remarks on the Establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument

June 15, 2006

Thank you all. Please be seated. Pretty good deal when you get introduced by your wife. [*Laughter*] I really am glad Laura is here, because she is a champion of our Nation's cultural and natural resources. It's an honor to share this important day with her at the podium. And I want to thank you all for coming.

As I was walking in here, I actually saw Theodore Roosevelt's portrait over there. What's interesting is that we are here to fulfill a legacy of conservation that was first begun by Theodore Roosevelt. In 1909, President Roosevelt established the Hawaiian Island Reservation, and he did so to protect native seabirds from being hunted. His Executive order was the first of many Presidential efforts to protect the life and waters of Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

In a few moments, I will sign a proclamation to designate the waters in this region a national monument. This action will create the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, the largest single conservation area in the history of our country and the largest protected marine area in the world.

As a marine national monument, the waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands will receive our Nation's highest form of marine environmental protection. We will protect a precious natural resource. We will show our respect for the cultural and historical importance of this area. And we will create an important place for research and learning about how we can be good stewards of our oceans and our environment.

I can't thank the Governor for being here enough, Governor Linda Lingle. She's—as I'll mention a little later on, we've been in close consultation with the Governor. And when did you leave yesterday? [*Laughter*] We're sure honored you're here representing your great State.

I want to thank Senator Daniel Akaka for joining us as well. I want to thank Congressman Ed Case, and I know that Congressman Neil Abercrombie will be here shortly for the

stiffer and more meaningful fines on broadcasters who violate decency standards, this law will ensure that broadcasters take seriously their duty to keep the public airwaves free of obscene, profane, and indecent material. American families expect and deserve nothing less.

And so I'm going to ask the Members of Congress who have worked hard on this piece of legislation to join me. I congratulate you for your good work. Thank you for coming. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:07 a.m. in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. S. 193, approved June 15, was assigned Public Law No. 109–235.

Remarks on Signing the MINER Act

June 15, 2006

Thanks for coming. Welcome to the White House, and thank you for witnessing this bill signing ceremony. In a few moments, I'm going to sign into law the most sweeping overhaul of Federal mine safety law in nearly three decades. The MINER Act of 2006 has strong support of mine workers and the mining industry, and it was overwhelmingly passed by the Congress. I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who have joined us here for their hard work on this important measure.

I thank the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, who has joined us. I appreciate the Governors from three important coal mining States, Joe Manchin, Ernie Fletcher, and Ed Rendell for joining us here as well. I was struck by how the Governors handled the tragedies of the mine incidents. I thought they were able to convey a deep sense of compassion in an attempt to heal hearts. And I thank them for their courage.

I appreciate Bill Frist, who has joined us, and Mitch McConnell, Members of the United States Senate, as well as Mike Enzi, Senator Ted Kennedy. I'm particularly thrilled that Senator Robert Byrd is here. I don't know if you know this, but last Monday he achieved a milestone, and that is, he has served longer in the United States Senate than any other Senator in our Nation's history, and he's served with distinction. And we're glad you're here, Senator. Thank you for coming.

I thank Majority Leader John Boehner for joining us, as well as Congressman Buck McKeon and Shelley Moore Capito, Hal Rogers, Rick Boucher from Virginia. I appreciate all the Members of Congress who've joined us. I appreciate the leaders of the mining industry. I appreciate the workers who are here. Thanks for taking time in your day to come.

I want to welcome the families of those—who mourn the loss of life. We share in your grief, and we honor the memories of your loved ones. I know it's hard. It's really hard for you. But we welcome you here, and we're honored you took time to be here.

I appreciate members of my administration who have joined us as well today. The hard work of American miners provides us with really important fuel. This economy is growing because of the work of our miners. Coal is an important part of our Nation's present and future.

Thanks to modern technology and equipment, we've come a long way from the days when a miner would take a canary into the coal mines. Passage—and since the passage of the Mine Safety and Health Act in '77—1977, America has seen significant decreases of injuries and fatal mining accidents.

Yet events in recent months have reminded us that mining is dangerous work. That's what we've seen. This year alone, accidents have taken the lives of 33 miners in our country. Just last month, five miners were killed in a mine explosion in Harlan County, Kentucky. And in January, Americans watched and prayed—a lot of Americans prayed with the people of West Virginia for the 13 miners that were trapped underground by the explosion in the Sago mine. Only one man came out, and he's with us today—Randal McCloy and his wife, Anna. And we welcome you all.

And we know—we know, and I hope you know that your fallen mining brothers are with us here today in spirit. They're with us today with their loved ones here—eyes wet with tears but proud of their accomplishments. We're glad you're here.

We honor the memory of all lost miners today; that's what we're doing signing this

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to James A. Baker III and Lee H. Hamilton, co-chairs, Iraq Study Group.

Remarks at the Initiative for Global Development's 2006 National Summit

June 15, 2006

Thank you all. Whatever successes this administration has had in combating global poverty, Colin Powell gets a lot of credit. I will spend some time talking about our responsibility as government to address global poverty. It's a responsibility we take seriously, and it's a responsibility that Colin Powell carried out in his distinguished tenure as the Secretary of State of our country. I want to thank you for being a friend, and thank you for your service to the country. He's a good man.

Thank you all for allowing me to come by to speak. I appreciate the cofounders and the leaders of the Global Development effort. I want to thank you for having this summit. Thank you for being what I call social entrepreneurs, people who care about the plight of other people.

The facts are these: Across the globe, more than a billion people live on less than a dollar a day. That should be a troubling statistic to all Americans. They lead lives of hunger; they lead lives of desperation. Every day is a struggle just to survive. That struggle ought to inspire us here in America. It's inspired you; it ought to inspire all our citizens.

I want to thank you for lending your expertise and your funds to address problems alongside your Government. Colin said, "You know, this is not a governmental effort; it's not a business effort; it's not an NGO effort; it's a combined effort by a lot of compassionate hearts to address a significant problem." And so I'm here to thank you for your commitment and to let you know, we're pleased to stand with you.

I want to thank Susan Schwab, who traveled with me today. Maybe you don't know who she is, but you will soon, because she just got sworn in as the new Trade Representative for the United States. So who do you pick to be the Trade Minister? Well, you pick somebody who is a good negotiator, for starters, somebody who understands that opening markets is in our national interest and that when you open a market, you make sure—as we open our markets, you make sure you're treated fairly. That's what we want. That's all we want. We want to be able to tell the American people that free trade is good for our country, but fair trade means that it's responsible. And so she understands that. She'll be a good, hard negotiator, but she also understands something I understand, and that is, trade is one of the best ways to help lift people out of poverty. I'm going to talk about that in a little bit.

I'm sorry Laura couldn't be with me here. She's a—she is a person who cares deeply about the suffering in places like the continent of Africa. When she travels, she brings the message to the people there that a lot of Americans care deeply about AIDS or care deeply about hunger or malaria. She sends her greetings. I'm lucky she said yes when I asked her to marry me. I think this country is lucky to have her as an ambassadress for the good hearts of the American people.

I thank Bill Clapp and General Shalikashvili, former Senator Dan Evans, Bill Ruckelshaus, cofounders of the Initiative for Global Development. Thank you for being farsighted. Thank you for calling people to action. I thank the members who are here as well.

I appreciate Ambassador Randy Tobias. He had a pretty easy job there in Indianapolis at one time. [*Laughter*] I asked him to—I asked him, I said, "Look, Randy, you've got management skills, and you care; why don't you serve your country, see; why don't you come here to Washington, DC, and put up with all the rhetoric and the noise and the sharp elbows and do something for people around the world." And he did. He ran the—he ran our HIV/AIDS initiative, and he did a really good job.

America is on the leading edge of fighting HIV/AIDS, and one of the reasons we're effective is because of Randy Tobias. So I'm confident he wanted to leave—"See, I got a place in Montana where I can fish." I think you got one in Montana, don't you? Yes, he started talking about his fishing place in

Montana. My answer was, "You're not through yet." [*Laughter*] I said, "You need to run USAID." It's an important part of helping deal with global poverty. It's an important part of our strategy. I want to thank you for staying on, and I want to thank you for your hard work and your vision. You represent the very best of corporate America. You get your skills; you make a living; and then you come and serve your fellow countrymen and the world. Randy, I really thank you for the inspiration and the example you've set.

I'm going to talk about the Millennium Challenge Account. Colin mentioned it. The head of it is here today, John Danilovich. We were really kind of bureaucratic when we first got the thing set up. Like, we weren't moving money out the door, and Congress began to get nervous. I remember Colin was coming to the Oval saying, "Look, it's a great idea, but we got to show some results here pretty quick." Danilovich understands the job is to be less bureaucratic and more forward-leaning when it comes to implementing the Millennium Challenge Account strategy. I want to thank you for taking on this important job.

And I also want to thank my friend Rob Mosbacher, fellow Texan, who's running OPIC. Appreciate you serving the country. Thanks for coming up from Houston to serve.

Here's what I believe: I believe to whom much is given, much is required. This country has been given a lot. We've got a great system; we've got wonderful entrepreneurs; and we're wealthy. We're wealthy because of the ingenuity of the American people. We're wealthy because there's risk-takers. We're wealthy because we've got a fiscal system that encourages the private sector to flourish. We're wealthy because we're a country of rules and laws.

I also believe that with prosperity comes an enormous responsibility. We have a moral duty to care for those who hurt here at home, and we have a moral duty to care for those—as best as we can for those abroad. That's part of the foreign policy of our country. It's a foreign policy that Secretary of State Powell helped implement—helped form and implement. We believe every person, no matter their income or economic status, bears the image of a Creator. That's what I believe. I believe every person, no matter their income or their status or where they live, has dignity of matchless value. And we believe that those who live in the most extreme poverty deserve this country's help.

Fighting global poverty reflects this country's values. It serves our Nation's interests as well. It's the country's economic interest that we fight global poverty, because as developing nations grow in prosperity, they create better lives for their citizens and markets for U.S. products. It's in our security interests that we fight global poverty, because weakened, impoverished states are attractive safe havens for terrorists and tyrants and international criminals. We believe that young people without opportunities are susceptible to ideologies of hatred. And so by helping poor nations create a more hopeful future, we can not only build prosperity; we reduce the appeal of radicalism.

Our values and our interests draw us to the same conclusion: The reduction of extreme poverty in our world must be a key objective of American foreign policy. And it is. And so today I want to talk to you about the need for us to expand trade, to promote freedom, and to reform the programs that we have in place, in order to achieve results, in order to say that—to the American taxpayer, the money is not only being spent; it's being spent wisely.

First, the strategy to defeat extreme poverty begins with trade. That's sometimes hard for some people to connect with. It's kind of a—people don't quite understand why that's the case. One way to describe it, the value of trade, is this: The value of trade is more than 10 times the value of foreign investment and foreign aid combined. In other words, prosperity as a result of trade is more likely—10 times more likely to have a positive effect on somebody living in a poor society than just investment and grants.

History has shown what I'm talking about. Take the example of South Korea. It's probably hard for some to remember, back in the '50s, particularly if you were born in the '60s—[*laughter*]—but South Korea was one of the poorest nations in Asia. South Korea

passed. And I'm looking forward to signing it into law.

I want to thank Kevin Martin, who's the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and I want to thank the other Commissioners who are here today.

I appreciate Senator Bill Frist joining us. He's the Majority Leader of the United States Senate. I want to thank Senator Ted Stevens for joining us as well. I thank Senator Sam Brownback, Senator George Allen. I want to thank the House Majority Leader, John Boehner, for being here. I want to thank Joe Barton, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The bill sponsor is with us, Fred Upton from the State of Michigan. Thank you for coming, Fred. I appreciate Congressman Bobby Rush from the State of Illinois, Chip Pickering from Mississippi, and Joe Pitts from Pennsylvania.

Everyday, our Nation's parents strive to raise their children in a culture that too often produces coarse, vulgar, and obscene entertainment. In our free society, parents have the final responsibility over the television shows that their children watch or the web sites they visit or the music they listen to. That's a responsibility of moms and dads all across the country, to make sure their children are listening to or watching the right kind of programming.

The best way to do that is for parents to be vigilant, pay attention to what their children are doing. One thing they can do if they're worried about people watching a bad program is turn off the TV. That's why they put the "on/off" button there. [*Laughter*] Parents are the first line of defense, but broadcasters and the electronics industry must play a valuable role in protecting our children from obscene and indecent programming.

They provide the tools that empower parents to make good decisions, such as voluntary rating systems and the V-chip. And we applaud those. Broadcasters also have a duty to respect common decency, to take into account the public interest, and to keep the public airwaves free of indecent material, especially during the hours when children are most likely to be watching and listening.

Unfortunately, in recent years, broadcast programming has too often pushed the bounds of decency. One study found that during the hours between 8 and 9 p.m.—that's the time when most families are watching television—the use of profanity on television shows increased vulgar language by 95 percent from '88 to—1988 to 2002. In other words, the language is becoming coarser during the times when it's more likely children will be watching television. It's a bad trend, a bad sign. Since 2000, the number of indecency complaints received by the FCC has increased from just hundreds per year to hundreds of thousands. In other words, people are saying, "We're tired of it, and we expect the Government to do something about it."

And so we believe we have a vital role to play. We must ensure that decency standards for broadcasters are effectively enforced. That's the duty of the FCC. That's why we've got the Chairman standing right here, which he understands. [*Laughter*] It's the duty of the FCC to impose penalties on broadcasters and stations that air obscene or indecent programming. It's one of their responsibilities. People expect us to adhere to our responsibilities. He's a part of the executive branch. And since I'm the head of the executive branch, I take responsibility, as well, for putting people in place at the FCC who understand, one of their jobs, and an important job, is to protect American families.

The problem we have is that the maximum penalty that the FCC can impose under current law is just $32,500 per violation. And for some broadcasters, this amount is meaningless. It's relatively painless for them when they violate decency standards. And so the Congress decided to join the administration and do something about it.

And so the bill I'm about to sign, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act, increases tenfold the penalty that the FCC can impose, to $325,000. The Congress got serious, and I appreciate their hard work on this measure.

The legislation does not change the broadcast decency standards that are already on the books. What the legislation does is, it gives the FCC the means to enforce them more effectively. By allowing the FCC to levy

just described to you to all our development aid. We're going to insist upon transparency and performance and accountability. We're going to ensure that every American aid dollar encourages developing nations to build institutions necessary for long-term success. And we're going to help developing nations achieve economic independence. That's what we're going to do. We're going to get away from this notion about, kind of, just analyzing monies based upon percentage of this, that, or the other. We're going to be generous in our contribution and demand results in return.

Now, what's interesting about the goal of eliminating poverty is that about 85 percent of American resources to the developing world come from the private sector. It's one thing for me to talk, and now I'm changing from what we're doing to encouraging you to continue doing what you're doing.

The truth of the matter is, our generous Nation is—the generosity of our Nation is reflected in the private sector a lot. I think that's what makes us such a unique country. You know, government helps, and government does a lot. As I said, we've doubled aid, but what our private sectors do is—it's unbelievable, when you think about it.

And corporate America has a responsibility. And for those of you who represent the NGOs and faith-based groups, thank you for joining the cause as well. This is a collaborative effort. Some of the best work in fighting poverty is accomplished in partnership with private institutions. The Global Development Alliance has successfully built 400 worldwide alliances. That's good. You've leveraged about 1.4 billion of taxpayers' dollars to over $4.6 billion. In other words, you've taken the money we're spending as kind of a—I wouldn't call it a downpayment, but it's part of a way to really leverage your generosity.

And you're making a difference in the lives of millions of people. I'm grateful for you. That's what I've really come to say. I've come to assure you that the effort to eliminate global poverty is an integral part of our foreign policy. And I think it needs to be a foreign—part of foreign policy after 2½ years, by the way. I think it needs to be a—I think it needs to be part of the calling of the United States in the 21st century.

One of the moral objectives of our time—the great moral objectives of our time is to reduce poverty. I like what Alexis de Tocqueville said about America. He's a pretty interesting observer. Back in 1832, he captured a lot of the spirit of this country. He said this, he said, "When an American needs the assistance of his fellows, it's very rare that it be refused. When some unexpected disaster strikes a family, a thousand strangers willingly open their purses."

That was the America he saw in the 1830s. It's still got to be the America of the 21st century as well, but not only to help our fellow citizens here at home but for our national interests and our economic interests, and just to answer the call of our hearts, it ought to be our foreign policy. It ought to be the center of our foreign policy and the center of the social entrepreneurs in America.

I want you to know that when disaster strikes, we move. We moved hard for the tsunamis, with a military presence that helped organize relief. When the earthquake came in Pakistan, we didn't hesitate—we moved. We know that when a neighbor needs assistance, that we have an obligation to help provide it.

My assurance to you is that we will continue to stand with our brothers and sisters who are poor, to help as best as we possibly can, and I want to thank you for helping as well. God bless your efforts, and may God bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. at the Willard InterContinental Washington.

Remarks on Signing the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005

June 15, 2006

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you all for coming. In a few moments, I will sign the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. This is a good bipartisan bill. It's going to help American parents by making broadcast television and radio more family-friendly.

I appreciate the many citizens groups who are here, and I want to thank the Members of Congress who worked hard to get this bill

reformed its economy and opened its markets to the world. And today, export growth—the capacity for people to find work in South Korea, for products that are sold elsewhere—has made this country the tenth largest economy in the world.

India, for a long period of time, had restricted its markets. India opened its markets to global trade 15 years ago. It has doubled the size of its economy since then and created a middle class which is larger than the entire population of the United States.

I don't believe these are isolated examples. The World Bank study found that developing nations that lowered their trade barriers in the 1990s grew three times faster than those that did not. Economic growth is one important way to reduce poverty. It's the most effective way to reduce poverty. The best way to help millions mired in poverty is to expand the benefits of global trade. That's part of this administration's strategy.

I asked Congress, and Congress granted trade promotion authority. It took a lot of work, as you recall, Mr. Secretary, but it was a necessary part of our capacity to expand trade. And since then, we've completed negotiations on free trade agreements with 15 nations on 5 continents with a combined population of 200 million people.

We've built on the success of the African Growth and Opportunity Act. For those of you who follow the economic vitality of Africa, you know that AGOA has been a very effective policy. It was put in place by my predecessor, President Clinton. And we signed into law the AGOA Acceleration Act. In other words, we took the step that President Clinton took and took it farther.

And it's worked. That's what's important for our citizens to understand. Trade helps lift people out of poverty. Since AGOA's inception, U.S. imports from Africa have increased by 114 percent. Last year, over 98 percent of U.S. imports from AGOA-eligible countries entered this country duty-free. When somebody is able to sell a product into the United States, it means somebody is working. It means somebody has got a job. It means that people aren't reliant upon the Government to help them realize their dreams. This is like—AGOA has created new opportunities. Americans have got to understand that when we talk about trade, we're not only talking about enhancing economic growth and vitality; we're helping people get out of poverty. Trade is an important part of making sure that we implement this strategy.

You know, the AGOA showed that bipartisan cooperation here in Washington is possible. And one thing you can help is to make sure that bipartisan cooperation on other trade agreements is possible in Washington, DC. If you're genuinely serious about reducing poverty, you need to help us make sure this Nation does not become a protectionist nation. The tendencies are to say, "Let's just wall ourselves off from competition." But if we become a protectionist nation, if we lose our confidence and our capacity to compete in the global economy, it will make it much harder to achieve the common goal of reducing global poverty.

Now we're confronted with a really good opportunity, by the way, to deal with global poverty, and that is to complete the Doha round of the WTO negotiations. And it's tough sledding right now. You know, national interests seem to be kind of more important than a—than reducing barriers and tariffs across the world. You know, local politics has a lot to do with whether or not this Doha round is going to get completed, and I understand that. And I knew that going into the negotiations.

And that's why at the United Nations last year, I made this pledge on behalf of the American people: We're ready to eliminate all tariffs and subsidies and other barriers to free flow of goods and services, and we expect other nations to do the same. That's what I said to get the Doha round moving. See, we're ready to make the move—on agriculture and services and manufacturing, but we expect other nations to do the same thing. We expect other nations to give us market access. I want to be able to go to people here in the United States, producers, and say, "We got you market access so you can compete fairly." And that's why we're going to get rid of the subsidies that now exist on the books.

The Doha negotiations are at a critical moment. It is—in my view, countries in Europe have to make a tough decision on farming. And the G–20 countries have to make a

tough decision on manufacturing. And the United States is prepared to make a tough decision along with them. That's my message to the world.

Susan's going to carry that message. I'm going to carry it to Europe next week at the EU summit. Now is the time for the world to come together and make this world a free trading world, not only for the benefit of our own economies but as an important part of the strategy to reduce poverty around the world.

I think we have to expand freedom in order to reduce poverty. Free nations produce the vast majority of the world's economic output. Many of the worst dictatorships are some of the world's most poorest nations. I believe there's a correlation between prosperity and freedom. And this country of ours will continue to pursue an agenda that understands that human liberty is universal. It's just not a U.S. thing; it's its own—liberty is something that everybody yearns for. And freer the world becomes, the more prosperous the world becomes and the more likely people will not be mired in poverty.

Nations that build institutions that secure the rule of law and respect human dignity also are more likely to create an economic climate that fosters investment and growth. And so we support the rise of free and democratic societies across the world. And the story of freedom is one of the really, really interesting chapters of the 21st century, when you think about it. From Afghanistan to Iraq to Lebanon to Georgia to Ukraine to Kyrgyzstan, people have gone to the polls and elected their leaders. In the last 5 years, more than 110 million people have joined the ranks of the free. That's an astonishing development when you think about it. And it's a positive development for those of us who care deeply about global poverty.

As more people gain their freedom, they will also gain the opportunity to build a better life. That's a fact of life. And so this country has got to be confident in our willingness, in our desire to help people—to help free people from the clutches of tyrants. I said in my second Inaugural speech, "The goal of this country ought to be to end tyranny in the 21st century." I could have easily have said, "One way to reduce global poverty is to reduce tyranny in the 21st century."

Free peoples need to do more than cast their ballots. We recognize that. Going to the polls is not the kind of freedom necessary to reduce global poverty. It's just the beginning of a process to reduce global poverty. And so the United States has an obligation to help others build the institutions necessary—in a civil society—necessary to be able to deal in a—with the advent of freedom. And so we're helping new democracies build free institutions that are responsive to the people's needs. And we're doing so through organizations like the National Endowment of Democracy. We've worked to double its budget over the past 5 years. Those funds support programs that will help form civic organizations. We're helping dissidents become legislators. We're helping businesses in new market economies organize trade associations and chambers of commerce. It's the things we take for granted here in America, these funds are meant to do.

It's one thing to promote trade; it's one thing to promote freedom, but we've got to recognize that our own aid programs have got to help complement those objectives. In other words, we want results from the money we spend. That's what the American people expect, by the way. See, when we talk about foreign aid, they expect the foreign aid to mean something. You know, I travel around a lot. I think about people out there that are working hard for a living, and they say, "You know, you're spending this money overseas. Why?" And the answer is, because not only do we have a moral duty, it's in our national interest to do so.

But I've got to be able to tell them, as well, and anybody in elected office has got to be able to say, "We're making a difference with the money, see; it's actually producing results." For decades, we provided aid with good intentions. We didn't always ask if we were getting good results. One of the great reforms of Colin Powell's tenure as Secretary of State is, he started asking, "What are the results of the programs; what are we achieving?"

Since 2002, we've committed to increase the resources we devote to fighting poverty across the world. As Colin mentioned, since taking office, we more than doubled assistance around the world from 10 billion to 27½ billion. It's the largest increase, by the way, of foreign aid since the Marshall Plan. And you get a lot of credit for that, Mr. Secretary. I remember you coming into the Oval Office saying, "Let's put our hearts out there for people to see." And one way to do it is by increasing our budgets.

I want to remind you what we're doing with that money. We're fighting HIV/AIDS, and we're helping countries fight malaria. We're expanding education for women and girls. We're rewarding developing nations that move forward with economic and political reform. And by the way, shortchanging these efforts—Congress has got to understand, in shortchanging these efforts, if they choose to do so in the appropriations process, they would undercut our long-term security and dull the conscience of our country. I urge Congress to serve the interests of America by showing the compassion of America and approve my full funding request for foreign assistance this year.

And as we increase the resources, we'll increase accountability for those who have received American aid. In many poor countries, it's really important for all of us who are involved in this program to admit that corruption runs deep. And a lot of times, the assistance we have provided has been wasted or put in the pockets of corrupt officials. I know that's unpleasant for some to hear, but it's a fact. If we expect the people to support us in our efforts to be robust in our compassion overseas, then we've got to recognize that sometimes that money gets stolen and people don't get the results for the money that they expect.

And so we decided to do something about it. We decided that our foreign policy ought to recognize true compassion as measured by real improvements, not just by the amount of money spent. And real improvement is the goal of our assistance.

And so we've set up the Millennium Challenge Account. And it was set up under the—in the State Department when Colin was there. And here's what it says, it says, "We want to grant you money. We want to give assistance, but you've got to be responsible. You, the recipient, have got to be responsible for fighting corruption, embracing democratic government, encouraging free markets, and investing in the health and education of your people."

I remember when we put that out, it was a little controversial, as you remember. I don't see what's controversial in that. I don't see what's wrong with saying to a nation, "You don't get any money if you're corrupt." Because we believe countries are capable of getting rid of corruption. I don't see what's wrong with saying, "You've got to show real investment in education and health care in order to receive our money." I think that's a wise thing to ask. I think if part of the goal is to encourage economic development, we ought to say to countries, in return for U.S. aid, open your markets so you can enhance the prosperity of your citizens. Every nation that applies for a Millennium Challenge grant develops its own priorities and develops its own strategies. But one of the things we do—and this is what Danilovich does and his staff does—they develop clear goals that are measurable. So we say, "This is what you're going to do? Fine. Show us as time goes on that you're doing it."

So far, eight nations have compacts in place that's worth over $1½ billion. Additional 15 countries are now negotiating with the Millennium Challenge Account. And we're going to get the money out the door so long as they meet the criterion.

But the point I'm trying to make to you is that wise use of Government monies can help us achieve objectives which lead to the reduction of global poverty. And so we're just through spending the money without asking for results.

We're an optimistic nation. We believe countries have got the capacity to change; that's what we believe. We refuse to accept the status quo. It is time for other countries around the world to demand anticorruption regimes. If we're truly interested in reducing global poverty, those of us who are granting money need to stand up with a united voice and say, "We're not going to tolerate corruption."

One of the things Randy Tobias and others are going to do at the State Department, they're going to apply the same principle I've