

George W. Bush Presidential Library

Collection: Records Management, White House
Office of (ORM)

Series: Subject Files –ED001
(Libraries/Facilities)

Folder Title: 717244 - 771068

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Barcode Scanning Sheet	718073	1	02/13/2007	b2;
002	Email	FW: kids letters [with attachment] - To: Elizabeth S. Houser - From: Amanda B. Aulds	3	01/22/2007	P5;
003	Barcode Scanning Sheet	759618 CF	1	07/23/2008	P1/b1; b2;
004	Barcode Scanning Sheet	770479	1	11/07/2008	b2;
005	Barcode Scanning Sheet	771068	1	11/13/2008	b2;
006	Letter	[Phillip Fulmer Letter] - To: Phillip Fulmer - From: POTUS	1	11/07/2008	P6/b6;
007	Note	[Contact Information]	1	N.D.	P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - ED001 (Libraries/Facilities)

FOLDER TITLE:

717244 - 771068

FRC ID:

11101

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).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

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

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING WORKSHEET



DATE RECEIVED: 2/2/2007

CASE ID: 717244

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JACK REED

EDDDI

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT AND THE IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROGRAM

ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		CODE	DATE	TYPE RESPONSE	CODE
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	CANDI WOLFF	ORG	2/2/2007		<i>C 4-18-07</i>
ACTION COMMENTS:					
<i>✓ OMB</i>		<i>R</i>	<i>2/12/07</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>3/9/07</i>
ACTION COMMENTS:					
<i>Ed</i>		<i>I</i>	<i>2/12/07</i>	<i>C</i>	
ACTION COMMENTS:					
ACTION COMMENTS:					
ACTION COMMENTS:					

COMMENTS:

MEDIA: LETTER

USER CODE: 1 ADDL
SIGNEE

ACTION CODES:	DISPOSITION		
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION B - RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK D - DRAFT RESPONSE I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY	TYPE RESPONSE:	DISPOSITION CODES:	COMPLETED DATE:
	TYPE RESPONSE = INITIALS OF SIGNER NRN = NO RESPONSE NEEDED	A - ANSWERED/ ACKNOWLEDGED C - CLOSED X - INTERIM REPLY	COMPLETED = DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSE- OUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT (ROOM 84, OEOB) EXT-62590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT

SCANNED
BY
ORM

**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
REFERRAL**

February 12, 2007

TO: OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY W/COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 717244

MEDIA: LETTER

DOCUMENT DATE: JANUARY 16, 2007

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: JACK REED
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR
THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT AND THE
IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROGRAM

COMMENTS:

2/15/07
cc: RP
SM
DD
SC
CU

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9
WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-2590.

RETURN **ORIGINAL** CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT)
TO: DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT, ROOM 84, OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE
HOUSE, 20500

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

717244 115938

January 16, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

As you finalize the Administration's fiscal year 2008 budget request, we urge you to provide adequate funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program.

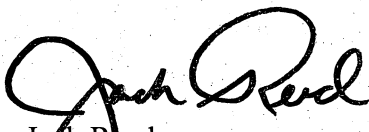
LSTA and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program work hand in hand to provide communities with a foundation so children can build the skills necessary to become lifelong learners. These programs help schools maximize educational efforts, ensure young children are ready to learn, reduce the digital divide in our poorest communities, offer library users literacy and job searching skills, and serve as the focal point for a host of community information and services.

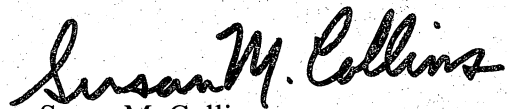
Recent research has reaffirmed the measurable difference well-stocked and well-staffed school libraries have on student achievement. Moreover, the Department of Education's November 2005 evaluation of the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program found it has been successful in improving the quality of school libraries.

If funded adequately, these two library programs hold great promise to do even more to ensure a literate and educated society. As such, we urge you to provide \$171.5 million for the LSTA Grants to States program in order to double the minimum state allotment as authorized under the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003, as well as sufficient funds to enable the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program to reach school libraries in every state.

We thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,


Jack Reed
United States Senator


Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

66069



717244

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

March 9, 2007

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of January 16, 2007, to President Bush regarding funding for library programs at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Department of Education. I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

As you know, the Administration has strongly supported programs benefitting libraries and museums. The 2008 Budget builds on this commitment with a \$24 million increase for IMLS programs, a 10 percent increase over the prior year. In particular, the Budget provides \$171.5 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States program. As you note in your letter, IMLS would be able to double the minimum state allotment as called for in the 2003 reauthorization of the LSTA.

The Budget also includes \$19.5 million for the Department of Education's Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program, the same as the prior year level. This program promotes comprehensive local strategies to improve student reading achievement by improving school library services and resources.

The Administration appreciates your input. As you know, the President transmitted his FY 2008 Budget to Congress on February 5, 2007. The Budget reflects our nation's highest priorities, including combating terrorism and protecting the homeland, keeping the economy strong with low taxes, and spending taxpayer dollars wisely while holding non-security spending growth to less than one percent. The President's pro-growth economic policies, coupled with greater spending restraint, put us on path to reduce deficits every year and achieve a balanced budget by 2012.

Thank you again for your interest in the FY 2008 Budget. We look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process.

Sincerely,


Rob Portman

Identical Letter Sent to The Honorable Susan Collins



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

March 9, 2007

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
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Washington, DC 20510

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DATE RECEIVED: 2/2/2007

CASE ID: 717244

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JACK REED

ED001

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT AND THE IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROGRAM

ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		CODE	DATE	TYPE RESPONSE	CODE	COMPLETED
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	CANDI WOLFF	ORG	2/2/2007			
ACTION COMMENTS:						
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ACTION COMMENTS:						
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COMMENTS:

MEDIA: LETTER

USER CODE: 1 ADDL
SIGNEE

**SCANNED
BY
ORM**

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A - APPROPRIATE ACTION B - RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK D - DRAFT RESPONSE I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY	TYPE RESPONSE: TYPE RESPONSE = INITIALS OF SIGNER NRN = NO RESPONSE NEEDED	DISPOSITION CODES: A - ANSWERED/ ACKNOWLEDGED C - CLOSED X - INTERIM REPLY	COMPLETED DATE: COMPLETED = DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSE- OUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

717244

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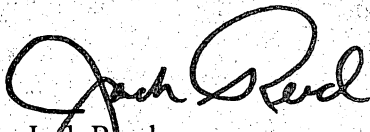
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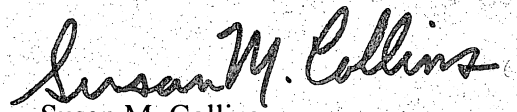
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We thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

ROACH_CL

718073

ED001

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **CTRACK**

Staff Name:

Document Date: **02/06/2007**

Correspondent: **BRIDGET BORSINGER & 1 additional correspondent(s)**

Subject/Description: **THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS. I ALWAYS ENJOY
HEARING FROM YOUNG AMERICANS, AND I
APPRECIATE YOUR SHARING YOUR VIEWS AND
SUGGESTIONS.**



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 6, 2007

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School
of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for your letters. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans, and I appreciate your sharing your views and suggestions.

As President, my most solemn duty is to protect the American people. It is vital to the security of our country that we complete the mission in Iraq and win the war on terror. Freedom is not just America's right, but the right of all humanity. By taking the side of freedom in this struggle, we are laying the foundation of peace for future generations.

Our extraordinary military personnel have answered the call of duty with courage and dedication. Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave men and women who have volunteered to sacrifice for a cause greater than self.

Best wishes. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,


George W. Bush

FEB - 7 2007

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Attn: Ms. Emily Arnold
225 Patchen Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11233

February 6, 2007

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Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/ca (Corres. #4710061)
(1.borsinger.b.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

Updated 1.24.2006

KSW/DH

He indicated name on letter
only for 2/5
framed We did not
label for normal use

2/5
✓ Ch. 2/5

Ch. 2/5
CB 2/5

GWBshell/SLR

SEND TO:

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Attn: Ms. Emily Arnold
225 Patchen Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11233

Updated 1.24.2006

GWBshell/SLR

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Updated 1.24.2006

GWBshell/SLR

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Updated 1.24.2006

February 6, 2007

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(l.borsinger.b.jjr.doc)

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PRESIDENT TO SIGN

Updated 1.24.2006

GWBshell/SLR

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Updated 1.24.2006

February 6, 2007

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Excellence Charter School
Brooklyn, New York

GC Bedford-Stuyvesant

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PRESIDENT TO SIGN

Updated 1.24.2006

CB 2/5

February 2, 2007

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Friends: *Students*

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Updated 1.24.2006

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PRESIDENT TO SIGN

SEND TO:

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

Attn: Emily Arnold

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 6, 2007

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School
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Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for your letters. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans, and I appreciate your sharing your views and suggestions.

I have no higher responsibility as President than to protect the American people. Our troops in Iraq are engaged in a struggle that will determine the direction of the war on terror and our safety here at home. By fighting those who wish to do us harm and advancing the cause of freedom in Iraq, our military personnel are laying the foundation of peace for generations to come. Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave men and women who are serving with honor and dedication.

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George W. Bush

FEB - 7 2007

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Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
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February 6, 2007

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GWB/JR/BH/DH/ca (Corres. #4710054)

(1/dillon.m.jjr.doc)

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cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

SENT TO:

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class

Updated 1.24.2006

h. 2/5 *UB 2/5*

GWBshell/SLR

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Attn: Ms. Emily Arnold
225 Patchen Avenue
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Updated 1.24.2006

GWBshell/SLR

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PRESIDENT TO SIGN

SENT TO:

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class

Updated 1/24/2006

GWBshell/SLR

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Attn: Ms. Emily Arnold
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I delete extra space

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PRESIDENT TO SIGN

SENT TO:

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class

Updated 1.24.2006

*edit
03/2/5*

February 2, 2007

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class
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Brooklyn, New York

Dear Friends: *Shawn*

Thank you for your letters. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans, and I appreciate your sharing your views and suggestions.

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GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710054)
(1.dillon.m.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

SEND TO:

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

Attn: Emily Arnold

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233



Rogers, Jocelyn J.

From: Weinstein, Jared B.

Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 8:38 PM

To: Rogers, Jocelyn J.; Sherzer, David; Keller, Karen E.; Hipp, Duke; Houser, Elizabeth S.; Aulds, Amanda B.

Subject: RE: Excellence Charter School -- Letters for Approval

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear **Friends**:

Thank you for **your letters**. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans, and **I appreciate your** sharing your views and suggestions.

As President, my most solemn duty is to protect the American people. **It is vital to the security of our country that we complete the mission in Iraq and win the war on terror. Freedom is not just America's right, but the right of all humanity. By taking the side of freedom in this struggle, we are laying the foundation of peace for future generations.**

Our extraordinary military personnel have answered the call of duty with courage and dedication. Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave men and women who **have volunteered** to sacrifice for a cause greater than self.

Best wishes. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

2/2/2007

Dear **Friends**:

Thank you for **your letters**. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans, and **I appreciate your** sharing your views and suggestions.

I have no higher responsibility as President than to protect the American people. Our troops in Iraq are engaged in a struggle that will determine the direction of the war on terror and our safety here at home. By **fighting those who wish to do us harm and** advancing the cause of freedom **in Iraq**, our military personnel are laying the foundation of peace for generations to come. Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave **men and women** who are serving with **honor** and dedication.

Best wishes. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

From: Rogers, Jocelyn J.

Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 12:48 PM

To: Weinstein, Jared B.; Sherzer, David; Keller, Karen E.; Hipp, Duke; Houser, Elizabeth S.; Aulds, Amanda B.

Subject: Excellence Charter School -- Letters for Approval

These two letters are in response to letters about Iraq sent by the students of a good friend of Barbara Bush.

Thanks,
Jocelyn Rogers
6-5136

February 1, 2007

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans.

As President, my most solemn duty is to protect the security of the American people. We must remain committed to completing the mission in Iraq and winning the war on terror. By advancing the cause of

2/2/2007

freedom, we are laying the foundation of peace. Our extraordinary military personnel have answered the call of duty with courage and dedication. Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave men and women who are willing to sacrifice for a cause greater than self.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710061)

(1:borsinger.b.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

February 1, 2007

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans.

I have no higher responsibility as President than to protect the American people from danger. Our troops in Iraq are engaged in a struggle that will determine the direction of the war on terror and our safety here at home. By advancing the cause of freedom, our military personnel are laying the foundation of peace for generations to come. Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave individuals who are serving with courage and dedication.

2/2/2007

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710054)

(1.dillon.m.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

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PRESIDENT TO SIGN

2/2/2007

February 1, 2007

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans.

As President, my most solemn duty is to protect the security of the American people. We must remain committed to completing the mission in Iraq and winning the war on terror. By advancing the cause of freedom, we are laying the foundation of peace. Our extraordinary military personnel have answered the call of duty with courage and dedication. Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave men and women who are willing to sacrifice for a cause greater than self.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

Updated 1.24.2006

GWBshell/SLR

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710061)
(1.borsinger.b.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

SEND TO:

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

Attn: Emily Arnold

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233

Updated 1.24.2006

February 1, 2007

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans.

I have no higher responsibility as President than to protect the American people from danger. Our troops in Iraq are engaged in a struggle that will determine the direction of the war on terror and our safety here at home. By advancing the cause of freedom, our military personnel are laying the foundation of peace for generations to come.

Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave individuals who are serving with courage and dedication.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

Updated 1.24.2006

GWBshell/SLR

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710054)

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cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

SEND TO:

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

Attn: Emily Arnold

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233

Updated 1.24.2006

January 31, 2007

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy
hearing from young Americans.

As President, my most solemn duty is to protect the security of the

American people. We must remain committed to completing the

mission in Iraq ^{and winning the war on terror. By achieving the cause of freedom, we are laying the foundation} because failure there could lead to danger here at home. ^{*(seems a little stark for 2nd graders)}

Our extraordinary military personnel have answered the call of duty to

~~fight terrorism and extend freedom around the world~~ with courage and

dedication. Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave men

and women who are willing to sacrifice for a cause greater than self.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

Updated 1.24.2006

GWBshell/SLR

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710061)

(1.borsinger.b.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

SEND TO:

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233

Updated 1.24.2006

January 29, 2007

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy
hearing from young Americans.

As President, my most solemn duty is to protect the security of the
American people. We must remain committed to completing the
mission in Iraq because failure there could lead to danger here at home.

~~During this time in our country's history, we look to our military~~
extraordinary
have answered the call of duty with courage and
personnel to fight terrorism and extend freedom around the world. *dedication.*

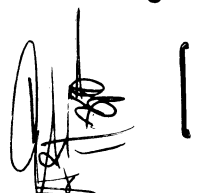
Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these brave men and women
who are willing to sacrifice for a cause greater than self.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

Updated 1.24.2006

letter:
Borsinger

A handwritten signature, likely of the sender, Borsinger, written in dark ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be a first name followed by a last name.

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710061)

(1.borsinger.b.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

SEND TO:

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Updated 1.24.2006

letter:
Dillon

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710054)
(1.dillon.m.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

SEND TO:

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233

January 24, 2007

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy
hearing from young Americans.

During this time in our country's history, we must remain committed to
completing the mission in Iraq and winning the war on terror. By
advancing the cause of freedom, our military personnel are laying the
foundation of peace for generations to come.

Mrs. Bush and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, and may
God bless America.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710061)
(1.borsinger.b.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

Updated 1.24.2006

- Values Anti to protect
 - Have chosen / must take fight
to enemy
 - Engaged in a struggle that
will determine GWOT course
 - Must succeed / ~~fail~~ ^{an option}
 - Grateful for ~~Alman~~ ^{in mission}
 - Encourage you to
Support troops.
- Letter: Borsinger 1/24/07

If the "remain committed"
line seems too ~~cranky~~
[cranky, there are
several other
options.]

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

SEND TO:

Ms. Borsinger's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233

January 24, 2007

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Students:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy
hearing from young Americans.

During this time in our country's history, we must remain committed to
completing the mission in Iraq and winning the war on terror. By
advancing the cause of freedom, our military personnel are laying the
foundation of peace for generations to come.

Mrs. Bush and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, and may
God bless America.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Updated 1.24.2006

*Need to
make them
significantly different.*

letter:
Dillon
[initials]

GWBshell/SLR

GWB/JR/BH/DH/jr (Corres. #4710054)

(1.dillon.m.jjr.doc)

cc: Jocelyn Rogers, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Duke Hipp, Pres. Corres., 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

cc: Betty Houser, Youth Responses, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

SEND TO:

Ms. Dillon's Second Grade Class

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

225 Patchen Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11233

Updated 1.24.2006

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Email	FW: kids letters [with attachment] - To: Elizabeth S. Houser - From: Amanda B. Aulds	3	01/22/2007	P5;

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

COLLECTION:

Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - ED001 (Libraries/Facilities)

FOLDER TITLE:

717244 - 771068

FRC ID:

11101

OA Num.:

11639

NARA Num.:

11772

FOIA IDs and Segments:

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).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

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

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

«letterdate»

«nameline»

«title»

«organization1»

«organization2»

«address1»

«address2»

«address3»

«address4»

«city», «statelong» «zip9»

Dear «salutation2a»:

Thank you for sharing your views and suggestions. I always enjoy hearing from young Americans.

As you continue your studies, I hope you will strive to learn something new every day. You can read more about issues that interest you, current events, and the history of our country by visiting your library or by logging onto the White House websites, www.whitehousekids.gov and www.whitehouse.gov. I also encourage you to set high goals, study hard, and help others in need. Through dedication to your schoolwork and compassion for others, you can reach your full potential and become a responsible leader in your community.

Mrs. Bush and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

M
George W. Bush

most solemn
dutymust
remain
committed

«letterdate»

«nameline»

«organization1»

«address1»

«address2»

«city», «statelong» «zip9»

Dear «salutation1»:

Thank you for your correspondence about Iraq. I appreciate your taking the time to write.

As President, my most solemn duty is to protect the security of the American people. Since September 11, 2001, we have chosen to confront threats before they arrive in our country. By doing so, we are dealing with challenges now rather than leaving them for future generations.

In Iraq, American military forces, along with military forces sent by our friends and allies, removed a threat to our security and liberated the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's rule. On April 22, 2006, the people of Iraq formed a national unity government based upon the democratic constitution they approved in October 2005. We will continue to help Iraqis move toward a free and prosperous nation by rebuilding infrastructure such as schools and roads, encouraging additional international support for the Iraqi people, and delivering food, water, medicine, and other aid to Iraqis in need. We will also continue training Iraqi security forces, and when the mission is complete, our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.

Your generation is growing up in a historic time when freedom is on the march, and America is proud to lead the armies of liberation. The volunteers of the United States Armed Forces, with the support of our friends and allies, have answered the call of duty with courage and dedication. Every man and woman who wears our Nation's uniform has earned our gratitude, and we must remain committed to completing the mission and winning the war on terror. By advancing the cause of freedom, we are laying the foundation of peace for generations to come.

Mrs. Bush and I encourage you to support these service men and women who are willing to sacrifice for a cause greater than self. To find out how you can assist our troops, please visit americasupportsyou.mil. We also hope you will continue to set high standards, make good choices, and help your neighbors. By reaching your full potential, you can make a difference in our world.

May God bless you and your family, and may God bless America.

Sincerely,

M
George W. Bush
Updated on 9/1/06
Updated 1/5/07

advancing
cause of
freedomMrs. Bush
I encouragecourage &
dedication

 [CLICK HERE TO PRINT](#)For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
January 11, 2007**President Bush Visits with Military Personnel and Families at Fort Benning, Georgia**Freedom Hall
Fort Benning, Georgia [In Focus: Defense](#)

1:10 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Please be seated. You call him General, I call him "Wojo." (Laughter.) Thank you for the introduction. I'm proud to be with you. I'm proud to be at Fort Benning, Georgia, home of the Infantry. I'm proud to be with those who have volunteered to serve our country, brave men and women who understand that the awesome responsibility of government is to provide security to the American people. I applaud you for your efforts. I'm proud to be your Commander-in-Chief. And I'm honored to have lunch with you.

I'm only sorry that my wife hasn't joined me. She's the better half of our deal. (Laughter.) But she sends her love and her respect.

Speaking about families, I have the greatest of respect for not only those of you who wear the uniform, but your families, as well. I fully understand in times of danger the military families make a significant sacrifice. And so on behalf of a grateful nation, I say thanks to the families of the soldiers here at Fort Benning, Georgia. (Applause.)

Wojo, I'm glad your wife, Candy, joined us. We both married well. I appreciate traveling here today with the United States Congressman who represents this area, Congressman Sanford Bishop. Thank you for coming, Congressman. (Applause.) And I'm pleased that Congressman Lynn Westmoreland -- he is from the district right north of here -- has joined us today. Lynn, thank you for being here. (Applause.)

I appreciate the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia, Mayor Wetherington. Mr. Mayor, thank you for being here. Thanks for coming. (Applause.) Mayor Hardin, of Phenix City, Alabama has joined us. Mr. Mayor, appreciate you coming. (Applause.) I know you didn't ask, neither of the Mayors asked, but sometimes I like to remind them, just go ahead and fill the potholes. (Laughter.) I'm not suggesting there are any, it's just my advice.

I appreciate all the officials, local officials who are here. I can't thank the commanders of the base who have arranged this visit -- I do want to thank Keith Lovejoy, Colonel Keith Lovejoy, Garrison Commander of Fort Benning, and his wife, Carol; Sergeant Major Doug Greenway, his wife JoAnn.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hooah!

THE PRESIDENT: You've got a little bit of a following here. (Laughter.)

I appreciate all the civilian personnel that have joined us to help make this base run. You know, our bases cannot run without the important contributions of civilians, and I appreciate your effort in helping this fine base survive. This is a really important place. This is a place that has a long tradition of turning civilians into highly skilled soldiers. And I can't thank you enough for the contribution you're making to the security of this country.

There's a lot of history here at Fort Benning, Georgia. A lot of folks have left this base to defend freedom and pass

**VIDEO** Multimedia

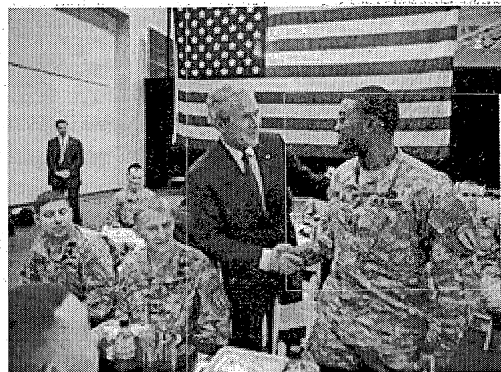
President's Remarks

WIN



the peace. And I appreciate the fact -- and I know you do, as well -- that you're part of a long tradition of people who have made incredibly important sacrifices so that hundreds of millions of people would enjoy the blessings of liberty and freedom and the world will be more peaceful.

And that's what we're here to celebrate today. On September the 11th, our nation saw firsthand the destructive vision of a new kind of enemy, and once again the men and women of Fort Benning answered the call to protect our country from that enemy. You know, I knew that right after the attacks, the American psyche being what it is, people would tend to forget the grave threat posed by these people. I knew that. As a matter of fact, I was hoping that would happen so that life would go on. But the fortunate thing for this country is that those who wear the uniform have never forgotten the threat. You understand the stakes.



Failure in
Iraq

You know, the Rangers from the Third Battalion of the 75th regiment led the way when it came to upholding doctrine that said, if you harbor a terrorist, you're equally as guilty as the terrorists, and helped liberate Afghanistan. The first fight of this new war was in that faraway place. Soldiers from Fort Benning led the way.

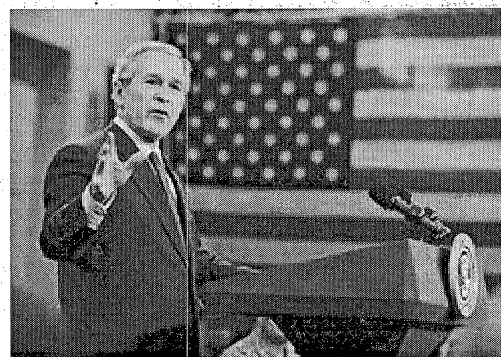
The Third Brigade Combat Team of the Third Infantry Division took up the sledgehammer to help liberate Baghdad. One soldier from Fort Benning, Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith of the Third Infantry Division, went into Iraq. He was there when they surprised about a hundred of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard. They were attacked, and Sergeant Smith manned a 50-caliber machine gun atop a damaged armored vehicle to protect his men. He continued to fire from an exposed position. He took a fatal round. He saved more than a hundred lives of American soldiers. He received the Medal of Honor. (Applause.)

This is the kind of remarkable courage found throughout the -- throughout the men and women on this base. Troops from Fort Benning are now serving in Iraq right now, helping to protect the troops and the Iraqi citizens, training Iraqi security forces.

You're doing something else remarkable here, rebuilding schools and helping improve lives. Everywhere that warriors from this base serve, you leave your mark, and I believe it will be a legacy of hope and freedom and peace.

Last night I talked about a new strategy for Iraq, and I want to share some thoughts with you about that. You know, in 2005, I was able to report to the country that nearly 12 million Iraqis had cast their ballots in a remarkable election. I hope you still remember the moments when people were proudly able to wave their fingers saying, we have shed ourselves from a tyrant, and we're able to express our individual wills about the future of our country. I believe that 2005 would have been a -- we would have completed a lot of the mission and that would have been training the Iraqis so they would be in the lead, that they would be in a position to uphold the wishes of the 12 million people that voted.

In spite of the remarkable progress, 2006 turned out differently than I had anticipated. And it did because there's an enemy there that recognizes that the advance of freedom is in contrast to their hopes and their dreams. They can't stand the thought of a free society. Al Qaeda and foreigners and radicals took action trying to spur sectarian violence. They bombed holy -- important holy site, they killed innocent people, and they were effective at spawning sectarian violence.



The situation in Iraq is difficult, no question about it. It's a difficult time in Iraq because the sectarian violence needs to be challenged and stopped in order for this young society to advance. Yet, it's important for our fellow citizens to understand that failure in Iraq would be a disaster for our future. And here's why. One of the wisest comments I've heard about this battle in Iraq was made by General John Abizaid -- smart guy, a great soldier. He told me -- he said, Mr. President, if we were to fail in Iraq, the enemy would follow us here to America.

It's a different kind of war in which failure in one part of the world could lead to disaster here at home. It's important for our citizens to understand that as tempting as it might be, to understand the consequences of leaving before the job is done, radical Islamic extremists would grow in strength. They would be emboldened. It would make it easier to recruit for their cause. They would be in a position to do that which they have said they want to do, which is to topple moderate governments, to spread their radical vision across an important region of the world.

Imagine what would happen if these extremists who hate America and our way of life gained control of energy reserves. You can bet they would use those reserves to blackmail economies in order to achieve their objective. If we were to leave before the job is done, if we were to fail in Iraq, Iran would be emboldened in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Our enemies would have safe havens from which to launch attacks. People would look back at this moment in history and say, what happened to them in America? How come they couldn't see the threats to a future generation? That is why we must, and we will, succeed in Iraq. (Applause.)

The most urgent priority for success in Iraq is security, especially in Baghdad. Only the Iraqis can end sectarian violence. That's their job. The Iraqis must secure their people. The government recognizes they've got to do so, and they've put forth a plan. I received their plan, their version of the plan when I was in Jordan. The Prime Minister came and said, look, I understand we've got to do something about this violence, and here is what I suggest we do. Our commanders looked at it, helped fine-tune it so it would work.

The plan basically calls for the government to appoint a military commander for Baghdad, which they have done. And they've got the city divided into nine divisions in which there will be 18 Iraqi Army and National Police brigades operating out of local police stations to set up checkpoints, to knock on doors and take a census, to let them know that there is an army presence in the neighborhood to protect them.

The commanders on the ground in Iraq, people who I listen to -- by the way, that's what you want your Commander-in-Chief to do. You don't want decisions being made based upon politics, or focus groups, or political polls. You want your military decisions being made by military experts. And they analyzed the plan and they said to me, and to the Iraqi government, this won't work unless we help them. There needs to be a bigger presence.

And there needs to be a bigger presence because, in the past, we would go in with Iraqis and clear a neighborhood of extremists and terrorists, and then there wouldn't be enough troops to hold the neighborhood. So our kids would do a lot of hard work, and insurgents and terrorists and killers would generally not want to engage our troops -- probably a pretty smart decision on their part. But when they did, they would find justice, and then we'd go on to another assignment, and they'd come back in the neighborhood. And it's frustrating to our troops; it's equally frustrating to the Iraqi citizens who want to live in peace. That's what they want. They want to be able to have a peaceful life.

And so our commanders looked at the plan and said, Mr. President, it's not going to work until -- unless we support -- provide more troops. And so last night I told the country that I've committed an additional -- a little over 20,000 more troops, five brigades of which will be in Baghdad. They're going to work alongside the Iraqi units. They will be embedded in Iraqi units. They will help the Iraqis take the lead in securing the neighborhoods.

They're going to have a well-defined mission. You hear people say, there must be a clear military mission. That's what the military people have said to me. The mission is to help Iraqis clear and secure neighborhoods, to help Iraqis protect the local population, and to ensure that the Iraqi forces that are left behind will be capable of providing the security necessary in the capital city of Iraq. That's the mission.



could lead to



I asked General Casey, can we accomplish that mission? He said, you bet, we can accomplish that mission. It's got enough troops to accomplish the mission. But one other thing must happen -- that our troops and Iraqi troops must have proper rules of engagement. In other words, there can't be politics interfering with the action of our troops. The American people say, well, you tried it before -- and we did. They said, what went wrong, what's different?

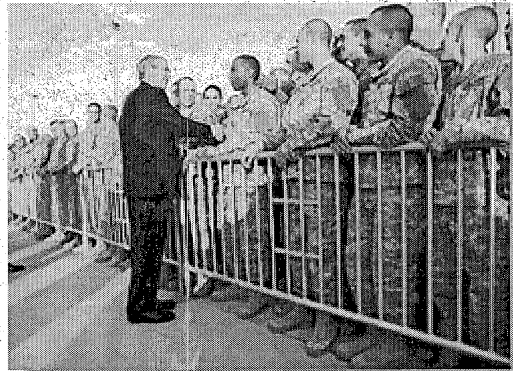
Well, what's new about this plan is there will be enough troops to clear, build and hold; and that our troops will be able to move alongside the Iraqis without political interference, and that's very important. It's important for our troops to hear, and it's important for the American people to know, this is new. This is something different that enables the military folks to predict that we will succeed in helping quell sectarian violence in Baghdad.

The other thing that's going to have to happen is that the government of Iraq must exhibit the will necessary to succeed. It's one thing to develop a plan, it's another thing to see it through. The Prime Minister and I have had some plain talking. I have made it clear that the patience of the American people is not unlimited. And now is the time to act. It's time to act not only for our sake, it's time to act for the sake of people in Iraq. Shia and Sunni mothers want their children to grow up in peace.

The Prime Minister has pledged that political or sectarian interference will not be tolerated. He has said this publicly. The new strategy is not going to yield immediate results. It's going to take awhile. The American people have got to understand that suicide bombings won't stop immediately. The IED attacks won't stop immediately.

Yet over time, we can expect to see positive results, and that would be the Iraqis chasing down the murderers; that there will be fewer brazen acts of terror inside of Baghdad; that there will be growing trust between the different neighborhoods. In other words, you'll begin to see a society that is somewhat more peaceful. Daily life will improve, the Iraqis will gain confidence in their leaders, and the government will have the breathing space necessary to be able to do other things, to do the politics necessary, to reconcile, to pass an oil law, to allow there to be provincial elections, to make sure that deBaathification rules are altered, to say to people, this society is a unified society. In other words, to listen to the will of the 12 million people that voted.

We -- it's interesting -- you know, I mentioned that the Prime Minister and the government have got to step up and lead. I was heartened by the resolve that I've seen in the last couple of days, the resolve of the government, and the resolve of the Iraqi troops. They fought bravely beside U.S. forces in Baghdad to rout out insurgents and terrorists along Haifa Street. I don't know if you followed that battle, but it was a tough battle, with the Iraqis in the lead, and our folks helping them.



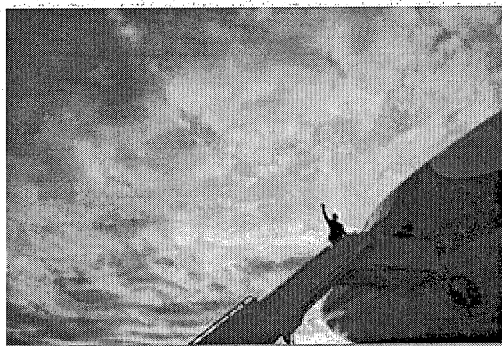
Yesterday, the resolve was seen when Prime Minister Maliki made it clear that illegal militias, including the Mahdi Army, have a choice to make: either lay down your arms or face justice. That's the kind of leadership that the Iraqi people expect. And that's the kind of leadership I expect, and the American people expect. Our support is not open-ended. If the Iraqis demonstrate a willingness to fight for a better future, we'll help them. It's in our interests that we do so. Not only do we expect to see action militarily, as I mentioned, we expect to see them fulfill the benchmarks that they laid out for their people.

We're going to help them. I was telling the General we'll double the number of provincial reconstruction teams; our commanders and civilians will have greater flexibility to spend money on the ground. For those of you who have been there, it's called CERP money. You know it's an effective tool to help part of the "build" part of "clear" -- build and hold. But their government has got to come in behind us.

I was pleased to see that the Iraqi government pledged \$10 billion of their own money to help this government show the people that beyond just security there needs to be an improvement in life, that people have got to have - see a better life in order for this government to work.

Last night I also talked about Anbar Province. It's important for the American people to understand al Qaeda still is in Iraq. As a matter of fact, they made it clear their ambitions in Iraq. These are the same folks that came and killed about 3,000 of our citizens. Their goal in Iraq is to topple the government, topple democracy.

See, their vision of life, their ideology can't stand the thought of free societies in their midst. They're totalitarians. You do it this way, or else, is their attitude about government. They don't believe in freedoms, like freedom to worship. I, frankly -- well, speaking about religion, these are



murderers. They use murder as a tool to achieve their objective. Religious people don't murder. They may claim they're religious, but when you kill an innocent woman, or a child to create a political end, that's not my view of religion. And yet, there are a lot of peaceful, religious people in the Middle East.

These people need to be stopped. They can't stand the thought of the Iraqis being able to worship freely. They want safe haven, and they've chosen Anbar as their place to achieve safe haven.

We've got a lot of really fine troops fighting al Qaeda and we're making progress. There's a lot of pressure on them in Anbar. Interestingly enough, a lot of sheikhs have decided to join in the fight against al Qaeda. They're tired of foreigners and killers in their midst. That's what the commanders have told me. And they believe we have a good opportunity to really crush this group of folks. And that's why I've committed 4,000 additional troops into Anbar, as well as the troops into Baghdad.

The purpose really is to crush these insurrections now, so that the -- democracy in Iraq can develop, has a chance to make it. That's why I made the decision I made. I understand the consequences of failure; they're not acceptable. And so I thought long and hard how best to succeed. That's what I'm interested in, is success. The American people are interested in success. And I laid out a plan that is our best chance for success.

It's also important for our citizens to understand that Iraq must be viewed in the larger context of the Middle East. It's important for Iran and Syria to understand that we will disrupt their attacks on our forces, that we will interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. We'll seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq.

Iran's desire to have a nuclear weapon has caught the attention of the world. It is a very dangerous -- that would be a dangerous situation if the Iranians were able to achieve a nuclear weapon. We will continue to pressure Iran, and call upon the world to do so, to end its nuclear weapons ambitions.

I made a statement last night that I had ordered the deployment of an additional carrier strike group to the region. I also talked about Patriot missile systems in the region, to help others deal with the external threats. We will use our full diplomatic resources throughout the Middle East.

It's very important for people to understand -- put this situation in Iraq in a larger context, and that is the ideological war that we're seeing. I talked to you about the consequences of failure. The best way to defeat the totalitarian of hate is with an ideology of hope -- an ideology of hate -- excuse me -- with an ideology of hope. It matters whether or not people are resentful in the Middle East. It matters if people are hateful and look to strike out at a convenient target in the Middle East. Our security depends on there to be a alternative to the ideology of hate. Because if there's resentment and hate, it's easier to recruit 19 kids to get on an airplane and kill 3,000 people.

And therefore, in the long run, your children and grandchildren are more likely to live in peace with the advent of liberty. And I'm confident that there are millions of people who are desirous to live in a free society, regardless of their religion, because I believe in the universality of freedom. I believe there's an Almighty, and I believe a gift of the Almighty to every soul is the desire to be free. That's what I believe. And so it did not surprise me when people defied car bombers and killers to vote, to send a signal, I want to be free.

And the task, immediate task of America, and the long-range goal of this country must be to help those who

desire to live in free societies to do so, for the sake of peace for our own children. And that's the call. And it's going to require sacrifice, and I appreciate the sacrifices our troops are willing to make. Some units are going to have to deploy earlier than scheduled as a result of the decision I made. Some will remain deployed longer than originally anticipated. I will work with you and the Congress to provide all the resources you need in this war on terror, and that means good equipment and training, good housing. I understand full well, if you're family is happy, you're happy. The same thing in my house, by the way. (Laughter.)

I believe it's important to increase the end strength of the United States Army so it can remain engaged -- (applause.) If this is a long struggle, now is the time to prepare this country and our military for this long struggle. It's important for our citizens to understand that the terrorists and extremists are as brutal an enemy as this country has ever faced. There are no rules of warfare. They don't -- they will kill you in a minute in order to achieve an objective. And I know we're going to face difficulties as we take on this important duty and task, and so do you.

You know first hand that -- what it means to lose a comrade. My view is that it is important for us to succeed so that comrade would not have died in vain. It's important to leave behind a better world as the sacrifices that all have made.

There is no doubt in my mind we will prevail. It will require patience and determination. It will require our military to do what you have done every time this government has asked of you. It will require the full resolve of not only this government, but future governments that will be following this one. Every time this country has been tested, we've responded. As I said last night, we have defied the pessimists, and we will do so again in this first battle of the 21st century.

God bless. (Applause.)

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Dear «salutation1»:

I appreciate your good work on behalf of the men and women in our Nation's Armed Forces.

During this time in our country's history, we look to our military personnel to fight terrorism and extend freedom around the world. By answering the call of duty, our men and women in uniform serve as examples of patriotism and dedication.

Thank you for supporting these brave individuals who are willing to sacrifice for a cause greater than self. Your efforts reflect the spirit of our Nation. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush
GWB/MM/EH/AC/«staff» (Corres. #«out_id»)
SLR105

cc: Marguerite Murer, Pres. Correspondence 9th FL/1800 G Street
cc: Betty Houser, Student Correspondence 9th FL/1800 G Street

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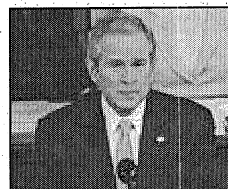
For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
January 23, 2007

President Bush Delivers State of the Union Address

United States Capitol
Washington, D.C.

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9:13 P.M. EST



VIDEO Multimedia

President's Remarks

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THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. And tonight, I have a high privilege and distinct honor of my own -- as the first President to begin the State of the Union message with these words: Madam Speaker. (Applause.)

In his day, the late Congressman Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. from Baltimore, Maryland, saw Presidents Roosevelt and Truman at this rostrum. But nothing could compare with the sight of his only daughter, Nancy, presiding tonight as Speaker of the House of Representatives. (Applause.) Congratulations, Madam Speaker. (Applause.)

Two members of the House and Senate are not with us tonight, and we pray for the recovery and speedy return of Senator Tim Johnson and Congressman Charlie Norwood. (Applause.)

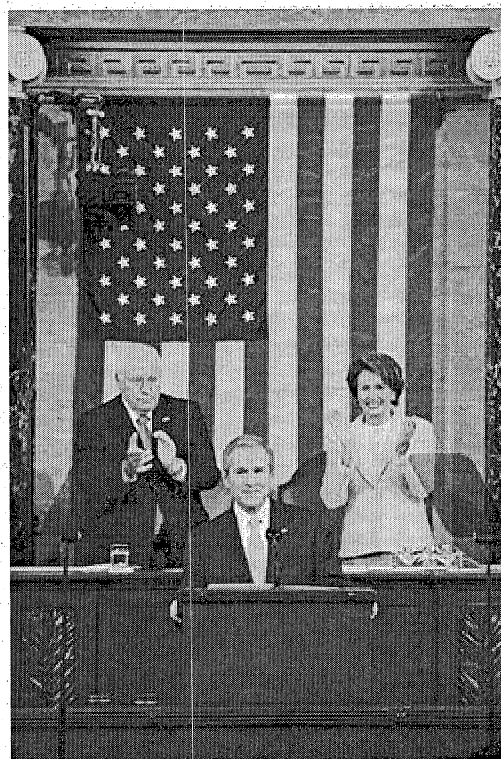
Madam Speaker, Vice President Cheney, members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens:

The rite of custom brings us together at a defining hour -- when decisions are hard and courage is needed. We enter the year 2007 with large endeavors underway, and others that are ours to begin. In all of this, much is asked of us. We must have the will to face difficult challenges and determined enemies -- and the wisdom to face them together.

Some in this chamber are new to the House and the Senate -- and I congratulate the Democrat majority. (Applause.) Congress has changed, but not our responsibilities. Each of us is guided by our own convictions -- and to these we must stay faithful. Yet we're all held to the same standards, and called to serve the same good purposes: To extend this nation's prosperity; to spend the people's money wisely; to solve problems, not leave them to future generations; to guard America against all evil; and to keep faith with those we have sent forth to defend us. (Applause.)

We're not the first to come here with a government divided and uncertainty in the air. Like many before us, we can work through our differences, and achieve big things for the American people. Our citizens don't much care which side of the aisle we sit on -- as long as we're willing to cross that aisle when there is work to be done. (Applause.) Our job is to make life better for our fellow Americans, and to help them to build a future of hope and opportunity -- and this is the business before us tonight.

A future of hope and opportunity begins with a growing economy -- and that is what we have. We're now in the 41st month of uninterrupted job growth, in a recovery that has created 7.2 million new jobs -- so far. Unemployment is low, inflation is low, and wages are rising. This economy is on the move, and our job is to keep



it that way, not with more government, but with more enterprise. (Applause.)

Next week, I'll deliver a full report on the state of our economy. Tonight, I want to discuss three economic reforms that deserve to be priorities for this Congress.

First, we must balance the federal budget. (Applause.) We can do so without raising taxes. (Applause.) What we need to do is impose spending discipline in Washington, D.C. We set a goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009, and met that goal three years ahead of schedule. (Applause.) Now let us take the next step. In the coming weeks, I will submit a budget that eliminates the federal deficit within the next five years. (Applause.) I ask you to make the same commitment. Together, we can restrain the spending appetite of the federal government, and we can balance the federal budget. (Applause.)



Next, there is the matter of earmarks. These special interest items are often slipped into bills at the last hour -- when not even C-SPAN is watching. (Laughter.) In 2005 alone, the number of earmarks grew to over 13,000 and totaled nearly \$18 billion. Even worse, over 90 percent of earmarks never make it to the floor of the House and Senate -- they are dropped into committee reports that are not even part of the bill that arrives on my desk. You didn't vote them into law. I didn't sign them into law. Yet, they're treated as if they have the force of law. The time has come to end this practice. So let us work together to reform the budget process, expose every earmark to the light of day and to a vote in Congress, and cut the number and cost of earmarks at least in half by the end of this session. (Applause.)

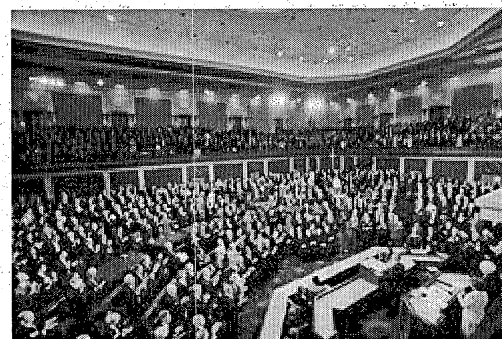
And, finally, to keep this economy strong we must take on the challenge of entitlements. Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid are commitments of conscience, and so it is our duty to keep them permanently sound. Yet, we're failing in that duty. And this failure will one day leave our children with three bad options: huge tax increases, huge deficits, or huge and immediate cuts in benefits. Everyone in this chamber knows this to be true -- yet somehow we have not found it in ourselves to act. So let us work together and do it now. With enough good sense and goodwill, you and I can fix Medicare and Medicaid -- and save Social Security. (Applause.)

Spreading opportunity and hope in America also requires public schools that give children the knowledge and character they need in life. Five years ago, we rose above partisan differences to pass the No Child Left Behind Act, preserving local control, raising standards, and holding those schools accountable for results. And because we acted, students are performing better in reading and math, and minority students are closing the achievement gap.

Now the task is to build on the success, without watering down standards, without taking control from local communities, and without backsliding and calling it reform. We can lift student achievement even higher by giving local leaders flexibility to turn around failing schools, and by giving families with children stuck in failing schools the right to choose someplace better. (Applause.) We must increase funds for students who struggle -- and make sure these children get the special help they need. (Applause.) And we can make sure our children are prepared for the jobs of the future and our country is more competitive by strengthening math and science skills. The No Child Left Behind Act has worked for America's children -- and I ask Congress to reauthorize this good law. (Applause.)

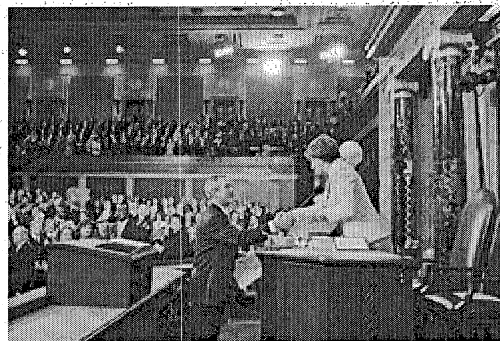
A future of hope and opportunity requires that all our citizens have affordable and available health care. (Applause.) When it comes to health care, government has an obligation to care for the elderly, the disabled, and poor children. And we will meet those responsibilities. For all other Americans, private health insurance is the best way to meet their needs. (Applause.) But many Americans cannot afford a health insurance policy.

And so tonight, I propose two new initiatives to help more Americans afford their own insurance. First, I propose a standard tax deduction for health insurance that will be like the standard tax deduction for dependents. Families with health insurance will pay no income on



payroll tax -- or payroll taxes on \$15,000 of their income. Single Americans with health insurance will pay no income or payroll taxes on \$7,500 of their income. With this reform, more than 100 million men, women, and children who are now covered by employer-provided insurance will benefit from lower tax bills. At the same time, this reform will level the playing field for those who do not get health insurance through their job. For Americans who now purchase health insurance on their own, this proposal would mean a substantial tax savings -- \$4,500 for a family of four making \$60,000 a year. And for the millions of other Americans who have no health insurance at all, this deduction would help put a basic private health insurance plan within their reach. Changing the tax code is a vital and necessary step to making health care affordable for more Americans. (Applause.)

My second proposal is to help the states that are coming up with innovative ways to cover the uninsured. States that make basic private health insurance available to all their citizens should receive federal funds to help them provide this coverage to the poor and the sick. I have asked the Secretary of Health and Human Services to work with Congress to take existing federal funds and use them to create "Affordable Choices" grants. These grants would give our nation's governors more money and more flexibility to get private health insurance to those most in need.



There are many other ways that Congress can help. We need to expand Health Savings Accounts. (Applause.) We need to help small businesses through Association Health Plans. (Applause.) We need to reduce costs and medical errors with better information technology. (Applause.) We will encourage price transparency. And to protect good doctors from junk lawsuits, we passing medical liability reform. (Applause.) In all we do, we must remember that the best health care decisions are made not by government and insurance companies, but by patients and their doctors. (Applause.)

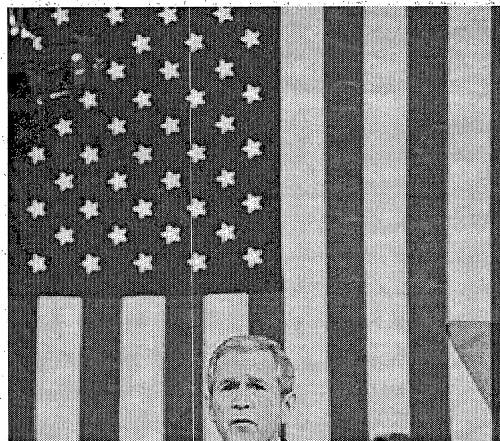
Extending hope and opportunity in our country requires an immigration system worthy of America -- with laws that are fair and borders that are secure. When laws and borders are routinely violated, this harms the interests of our country. To secure our border, we're doubling the size of the Border Patrol, and funding new infrastructure and technology.

Yet even with all these steps, we cannot fully secure the border unless we take pressure off the border -- and that requires a temporary worker program. We should establish a legal and orderly path for foreign workers to enter our country to work on a temporary basis. As a result, they won't have to try to sneak in, and that will leave Border Agents free to chase down drug smugglers and criminals and terrorists. (Applause.) We'll enforce our immigration laws at the work site and give employers the tools to verify the legal status of their workers, so there's no excuse left for violating the law. (Applause.)

We need to uphold the great tradition of the melting pot that welcomes and assimilates new arrivals. (Applause.) We need to resolve the status of the illegal immigrants who are already in our country without animosity and without amnesty. (Applause.) Convictions run deep in this Capitol when it comes to immigration. Let us have a serious, civil, and conclusive debate, so that you can pass, and I can sign, comprehensive immigration reform into law. (Applause.)

Extending hope and opportunity depends on a stable supply of energy that keeps America's economy running and America's environment clean. For too long our nation has been dependent on foreign oil. And this dependence leaves us more vulnerable to hostile regimes, and to terrorists -- who could cause huge disruptions of oil shipments, and raise the price of oil, and do great harm to our economy.

It's in our vital interest to diversify America's energy supply -- the way forward is through technology. We must continue changing the way America generates electric power, by even greater use of clean coal technology, solar and wind energy, and clean, safe nuclear power. (Applause.) We need to press on with battery research for plug-in and hybrid vehicles, and expand the use of clean diesel vehicles and



no higher responsibility

biodiesel fuel. (Applause.) We must continue investing in new methods of producing ethanol -- (applause) -- using everything from wood chips to grasses, to agricultural wastes.

We made a lot of progress, thanks to good policies here in Washington and the strong response of the market. And now even more dramatic advances are within reach. Tonight, I ask Congress to join me in pursuing a great goal. Let us build on the work we've done and reduce gasoline usage in the United States by 20 percent in the next 10 years. (Applause.) When we do that we will have cut our total imports by the equivalent of three-quarters of all the oil we now import from the Middle East.

To reach this goal, we must increase the supply of alternative fuels, by setting a mandatory fuels standard to require 35 billion gallons of renewable and alternative fuels in 2017 -- and that is nearly five times the current target. (Applause.) At the same time, we need to reform and modernize fuel economy standards for cars the way we did for light trucks -- and conserve up to 8.5 billion more gallons of gasoline by 2017.

Achieving these ambitious goals will dramatically reduce our dependence on foreign oil, but it's not going to eliminate it. And so as we continue to diversify our fuel supply, we must step up domestic oil production in environmentally sensitive ways. (Applause.) And to further protect America against severe disruptions to our oil supply, I ask Congress to double the current capacity of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. (Applause.)

America is on the verge of technological breakthroughs that will enable us to live our lives less dependent on oil. And these technologies will help us be better stewards of the environment, and they will help us to confront the serious challenge of global climate change. (Applause.)

A future of hope and opportunity requires a fair, impartial system of justice. The lives of our citizens across our nation are affected by the outcome of cases pending in our federal courts. We have a shared obligation to ensure that the federal courts have enough judges to hear those cases and deliver timely rulings. As President, I have a duty to nominate qualified men and women to vacancies on the federal bench. And the United States Senate has a duty, as well, to give those nominees a fair hearing, and a prompt up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. (Applause.)



For all of us in this room, there is no higher responsibility than to protect the people of this country from danger. Five years have come and gone since we saw the scenes and felt the sorrow that the terrorists can cause. We've had time to take stock of our situation. We've added many critical protections to guard the homeland. We know with certainty that the horrors of that September morning were just a glimpse of what the terrorists intend for us -- unless we stop them.

With the distance of time, we find ourselves debating the causes of conflict and the course we have followed. Such debates are essential when a great democracy faces great questions. Yet one question has surely been settled: that to win the war on terror we must take the fight to the enemy. (Applause.)

From the start, America and our allies have protected our people by staying on the offense. The enemy knows that the days of comfortable sanctuary, easy movement, steady financing, and free flowing communications are long over. For the terrorists, life since 9/11 has never been the same.

Our success in this war is often measured by the things that did not happen. We cannot know the full extent of the attacks that we and our allies have prevented, but here is some of what we do know: We stopped an al Qaeda plot to fly a hijacked airplane into the tallest building on the West Coast. We broke up a Southeast Asian terror cell grooming operatives for attacks inside the United States. We uncovered an al Qaeda cell developing anthrax to be used in attacks against America. And just last August, British authorities uncovered a plot to blow up passenger planes bound for America over the Atlantic Ocean. For each life saved, we owe a debt of gratitude to the brave



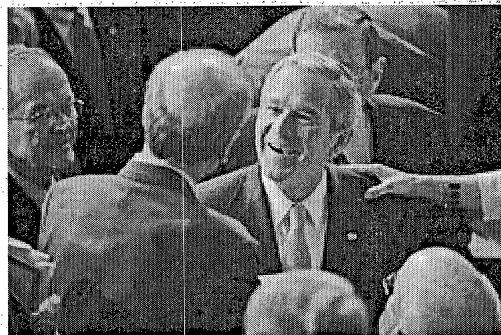
public servants who devote their lives to finding the terrorists and stopping them. (Applause.)

Every success against the terrorists is a reminder of the shoreless ambitions of this enemy. The evil that inspired and rejoiced in 9/11 is still at work in the world. And so long as that's the case, America is still a nation at war.

In the mind of the terrorist, this war began well before September the 11th, and will not end until their radical vision is fulfilled. And these past five years have given us a much clearer view of the nature of this enemy. Al Qaeda and its followers are Sunni extremists, possessed by hatred and commanded by a harsh and narrow ideology. Take almost any principle of civilization, and their goal is the opposite. They preach with threats, instruct with bullets and bombs, and promise paradise for the murder of the innocent.

Our enemies are quite explicit about their intentions. They want to overthrow moderate governments, and establish safe havens from which to plan and carry out new attacks on our country. By killing and terrorizing Americans, they want to force our country to retreat from the world and abandon the cause of liberty. They would then be free to impose their will and spread their totalitarian ideology. Listen to this warning from the late terrorist Zarqawi: "We will sacrifice our blood and bodies to put an end to your dreams, and what is coming is even worse." Osama bin Laden declared: "Death is better than living on this Earth with the unbelievers among us."

These men are not given to idle words, and they are just one camp in the Islamist radical movement. In recent times, it has also become clear that we face an escalating danger from Shia extremists who are just as hostile to America, and are also determined to dominate the Middle East. Many are known to take direction from the regime in Iran, which is funding and arming terrorists like Hezbollah -- a group second only to al Qaeda in the American lives it has taken.



The Shia and Sunni extremists are different faces of the same totalitarian threat. Whatever slogans they chant, when they slaughter the innocent they have the same wicked purposes. They want to kill Americans, kill democracy in the Middle East, and gain the weapons to kill on an even more horrific scale.

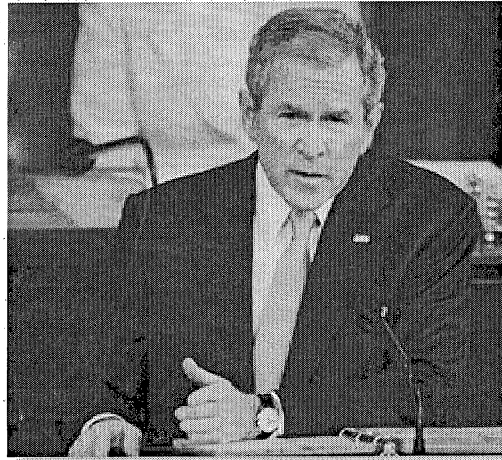
In the sixth year since our nation was attacked, I wish I could report to you that the dangers had ended. They have not. And so it remains the policy of this government to use every lawful and proper tool of intelligence, diplomacy, law enforcement, and military action to do our duty, to find these enemies, and to protect the American people. (Applause.)

This war is more than a clash of arms -- it is a decisive ideological struggle, and the security of our nation is in the balance. To prevail, we must remove the conditions that inspire blind hatred, and drove 19 men to get onto airplanes and to come and kill us. What every terrorist fears most is human freedom

-- societies where men and women make their own choices, answer to their own conscience, and live by their hopes instead of their resentments. Free people are not drawn to violent and malignant ideologies -- and most will choose a better way when they're given a chance. So we advance our own security interests by helping moderates and reformers and brave voices for democracy. The great question of our day is whether America will help men and women in the Middle East to build free societies and share in the rights of all humanity. And I say, for the sake of our own security, we must. (Applause.)

In the last two years, we've seen the desire for liberty in the broader Middle East -- and we have been sobered by the enemy's fierce reaction. In 2005, the world watched as the citizens of Lebanon raised the banner of the Cedar Revolution, they drove out the Syrian occupiers and chose new leaders in free elections. In 2005, the people of Afghanistan defied the terrorists and elected a democratic legislature. And in 2005, the Iraqi people held three national elections, choosing a transitional government, adopting the most progressive, democratic constitution in the Arab world, and then electing a government under that constitution. Despite endless threats from the killers in their midst, nearly 12 million Iraqi citizens came out to vote in a show of hope and solidarity that we should never forget. (Applause.)

A thinking enemy watched all of these scenes, adjusted their tactics, and in 2006 they struck back. In Lebanon, assassins took the life of Pierre Gemayel, a prominent participant in the Cedar Revolution. Hezbollah terrorists, with support from Syria and Iran, sowed conflict in the region and are seeking to undermine Lebanon's legitimately elected government. In



Afghanistan, Taliban and al Qaeda fighters tried to regain power by regrouping and engaging Afghan and NATO forces. In Iraq, al Qaeda and other Sunni extremists blew up one of the most sacred places in Shia Islam -- the Golden Mosque of Samarra. This atrocity, directed at a Muslim house of prayer, was designed to provoke retaliation from Iraqi Shia -- and it succeeded. Radical Shia elements, some of whom receive support from Iran, formed death squads. The result was a tragic escalation of sectarian rage and reprisal that continues to this day.

~~This is not the fight we entered in Iraq, but it is the fight we're in. Every one of us wishes this war were over and won. Yet it would not be like us to leave our promises unkept, our friends abandoned, and our own security at risk.~~ (Applause.) Ladies and gentlemen: On this day, at this hour, it is still within our power to shape the outcome of this battle. Let us find our resolve, and turn events toward victory. (Applause.)

We're carrying out a new strategy in Iraq -- a plan that demands more from Iraq's elected government, and gives our forces in Iraq the reinforcements they need to complete their mission. Our goal is a democratic Iraq that upholds the rule of law, respects the rights of its people, provides them security, and is an ally in the war on terror.

In order to make progress toward this goal, the Iraqi government must stop the sectarian violence in its capital. But the Iraqis are not yet ready to do this on their own. So we're deploying reinforcements of more than 20,000 additional soldiers and Marines to Iraq. The vast majority will go to Baghdad, where they will help Iraqi forces to clear and secure neighborhoods, and serve as advisers embedded in Iraqi Army units. With Iraqis in the lead, our forces will help secure the city by chasing down the terrorists, insurgents, and the roaming death squads. And in Anbar Province, where al Qaeda terrorists have gathered and local forces have begun showing a willingness to fight them, we're sending an additional 4,000 United States Marines, with orders to find the terrorists and clear them out. (Applause.) We didn't drive al Qaeda out of their safe haven in Afghanistan only to let them set up a new safe haven in a free Iraq.

The people of Iraq want to live in peace, and now it's time for their government to act. Iraq's leaders know that our commitment is not open-ended. They have promised to deploy more of their own troops to secure Baghdad -- and they must do so. They pledged that they will confront violent radicals of any faction or political party -- and they need to follow through, and lift needless restrictions on Iraqi and coalition forces, so these troops can achieve their mission of bringing security to all of the people of Baghdad. Iraq's leaders have committed themselves to a series of benchmarks -- to achieve reconciliation, to share oil revenues among all of Iraq's citizens, to put the wealth of Iraq into the rebuilding of Iraq, to allow more Iraqis to re-enter their nation's civic life, to hold local elections, and to take responsibility for security in every Iraqi province. But for all of this to happen, Baghdad must be secure. And our plan will help the Iraqi government take back its capital and make good on its commitments.

My fellow citizens, our military commanders and I have carefully weighed the options. We discussed every possible approach. In the end, I chose this course of action because it provides the best chance for success. Many in this chamber understand that America must not fail in Iraq, because you understand that the consequences of failure would be grievous and far-reaching.

If American forces step back before Baghdad is secure, the Iraqi government would be overrun by extremists on all sides. We could expect an epic battle between Shia extremists backed by Iran, and Sunni extremists aided by al Qaeda and supporters of the old regime. A contagion of violence could spill out across the country -- and in

time, the entire region could be drawn into the conflict.

For America, this is a nightmare scenario. For the enemy, this is the objective. Chaos is the greatest ally -- their greatest ally in this struggle. And out of chaos in Iraq would emerge an emboldened enemy with new safe havens, new recruits, new resources, and an even greater determination to harm America. To allow this to happen would be to ignore the lessons of September the 11th and invite tragedy. Ladies and gentlemen, ~~nothing is more important at this moment in our history than for America to succeed in the Middle East, to succeed in Iraq and to spare the American people from this danger.~~ (Applause.)

This is where matters stand tonight, in the here and now. I have spoken with many of you in person. I respect you and the arguments you've made. We went into this largely united, in our assumptions and in our convictions. And whatever you voted for, you did not vote for failure. Our country is pursuing a new strategy in Iraq, and I ask you to give it a chance to work. And I ask you to support our troops in the field, and those on their way. (Applause.)

The war on terror we fight today is a generational struggle that will continue long after you and I have turned our duties over to others. And that's why it's important to work together so our nation can see this great effort through. Both parties and both branches should work in close consultation. It's why I propose to establish a special advisory council on the war on terror, made up of leaders in Congress from both political parties. We will share ideas for how to position America to meet every challenge that confronts us. We'll show our enemies abroad that we are united in the goal of victory.

And one of the first steps we can take together is to add to the ranks of our military so that the American Armed Forces are ready for all the challenges ahead. (Applause.) Tonight I ask the Congress to authorize an increase in the size of our active Army and Marine Corps by 92,000 in the next five years. (Applause.) A second task we can take on together is to design and establish a volunteer Civilian Reserve Corps. Such a corps would function much like our military reserve. It would ease the burden on the Armed Forces by allowing us to hire civilians with critical skills to serve on missions abroad when America needs them. It would give people across America who do not wear the uniform a chance to serve in the defining struggle of our time.

Americans can have confidence in the outcome of this struggle because we're not in this struggle alone. We have a diplomatic strategy that is rallying the world to join in the fight against extremism. In Iraq, multinational forces are operating under a mandate from the United Nations. We're working with Jordan and Saudi Arabia and Egypt and the Gulf States to increase support for Iraq's government.

The United Nations has imposed sanctions on Iran, and made it clear that the world will not allow the regime in Tehran to acquire nuclear weapons. (Applause.) With the other members of the Quartet -- the U.N., the European Union, and Russia -- we're pursuing diplomacy to help bring peace to the Holy Land, and pursuing the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state living side-by-side with Israel in peace and security. (Applause.) In Afghanistan, NATO has taken the lead in turning back the Taliban and al Qaeda offensive -- the first time the Alliance has deployed forces outside the North Atlantic area. Together with our partners in China, Japan, Russia, and South Korea, we're pursuing intensive diplomacy to achieve a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons. (Applause.)

We will continue to speak out for the cause of freedom in places like Cuba, Belarus, and Burma -- and continue to awaken the conscience of the world to save the people of Darfur. (Applause.)

American foreign policy is more than a matter of war and diplomacy. Our work in the world is also based on a timeless truth: To whom much is given, much is required. We hear the call to take on the challenges of hunger and poverty and disease -- and that is precisely what America is doing. We must continue to fight HIV/AIDS, especially on the continent of Africa. (Applause.) Because you funded our Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the number of people receiving life-saving drugs has grown from 50,000 to more than 800,000 in three short years. I ask you to continue funding our efforts to fight HIV/AIDS. I ask you to provide \$1.2 billion over five years so we can combat malaria in 15 African countries. (Applause.)

I ask that you fund the Millennium Challenge Account, so that American aid reaches the people who need it, in nations where democracy is on the rise and corruption is in retreat. And let us continue to support the expanded trade and debt relief that are the best hope for lifting lives and eliminating poverty. (Applause.)

When America serves others in this way, we show the strength and generosity of our country. These deeds reflect the character of our people. The greatest strength we have is the heroic kindness, courage, and self-sacrifice of the American people. You see this spirit often if you know where to look -- and tonight we need only look above to the gallery.

Dikembe Mutombo grew up in Africa, amid great poverty and disease. He came to Georgetown University on a scholarship to study medicine -- but Coach John Thompson got a look at Dikembe and had a different idea. (Laughter.) Dikembe became a star in the NBA, and a citizen of the United States. But he never forgot the land of his birth, or the duty to share his blessings with others. He built a brand new hospital in his old hometown. A friend has said of this good-hearted man: "Mutombo believes that God has given him this opportunity to do great things." And we are proud to call this son of the Congo a citizen of the United States of America. (Applause.)

After her daughter was born, Julie Aigner-Clark searched for ways to share her love of music and art with her child. So she borrowed some equipment, and began filming children's videos in her basement. The Baby Einstein Company was born, and in just five years her business grew to more than \$20 million in sales. In November 2001, Julie sold Baby Einstein to the Walt Disney Company, and with her help Baby Einstein has grown into a \$200 million business. Julie represents the great enterprising spirit of America. And she is using her success to help others -- producing child safety videos with John Walsh of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Julie says of her new project: "I believe it's the most important thing that I have ever done. I believe that children have the right to live in a world that is safe." And so tonight, we are pleased to welcome this talented business entrepreneur and generous social entrepreneur -- Julie Aigner-Clark. (Applause.)

Three weeks ago, Wesley Autrey was waiting at a Harlem subway station with his two little girls, when he saw a man fall into the path of a train. With seconds to act, Wesley jumped onto the tracks, pulled the man into the space between the rails, and held him as the train passed right above their heads. He insists he's not a hero. He says: "We got guys and girls overseas dying for us to have our freedoms. We have got to show each other some love." There is something wonderful about a country that produces a brave and humble man like Wesley Autrey. (Applause.)

Tommy Rieman was a teenager pumping gas in Independence, Kentucky, when he enlisted in the United States Army. In December 2003, he was on a reconnaissance mission in Iraq when his team came under heavy enemy fire. From his Humvee, Sergeant Rieman returned fire; he used his body as a shield to protect his gunner. He was shot in the chest and arm, and received shrapnel wounds to his legs -- yet he refused medical attention, and stayed in the fight. He helped to repel a second attack, firing grenades at the enemy's position. For his exceptional courage, Sergeant Rieman was awarded the Silver Star. And like so many other Americans who have volunteered to defend us, he has earned the respect and the gratitude of our entire country. (Applause.)

In such courage and compassion, ladies and gentlemen, we see the spirit and character of America -- and these qualities are not in short supply. This is a decent and honorable country -- and resilient, too. We've been through a lot together. We've met challenges and faced dangers, and we know that more lie ahead. Yet we can go forward with confidence -- because the State of our Union is strong, our cause in the world is right, and tonight that cause goes on. God bless. (Applause.)

See you next year. Thank you for your prayers.

END 10:02 P.M. EST

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THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. BUSH

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For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
January 10, 2007

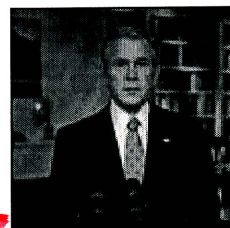
engaged in
a struggle

President's Address to the Nation

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9:01 P.M. EST



VIDEO Multimedia

President's Remarks

REAL

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THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. Tonight in Iraq, the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged in a struggle that will determine the direction of the global war on terror -- and our safety here at home. The new strategy I outline tonight will change America's course in Iraq, and help us succeed in the fight against terror.

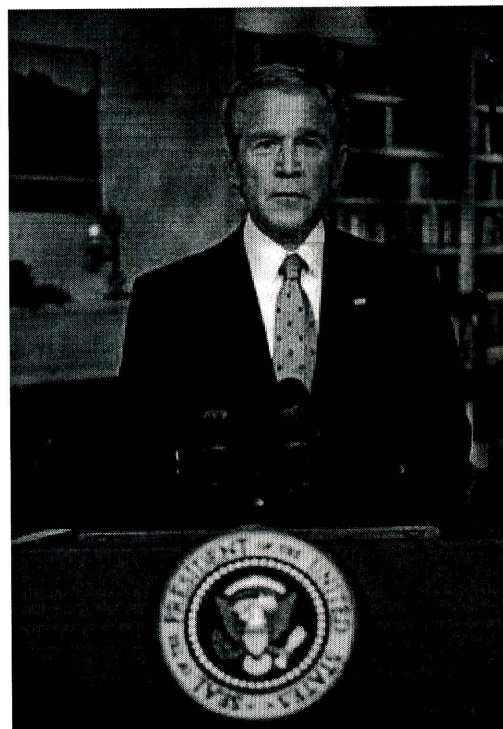
When I addressed you just over a year ago, nearly 12 million Iraqis had cast their ballots for a unified and democratic nation. The elections of 2005 were a stunning achievement. We thought that these elections would bring the Iraqis together, and that as we trained Iraqi security forces we could accomplish our mission with fewer American troops.

But in 2006, the opposite happened. The violence in Iraq -- particularly in Baghdad -- overwhelmed the political gains the Iraqis had made. Al Qaeda terrorists and Sunni insurgents recognized the mortal danger that Iraq's elections posed for their cause, and they responded with outrageous acts of murder aimed at innocent Iraqis. They blew up one of the holiest shrines in Shia Islam -- the Golden Mosque of Samarra -- in a calculated effort to provoke Iraq's Shia population to retaliate. Their strategy worked. Radical Shia elements, some supported by Iran, formed death squads. And the result was a vicious cycle of sectarian violence that continues today.

The situation in Iraq is unacceptable to the American people -- and it is unacceptable to me. Our troops in Iraq have fought bravely. They have done everything we have asked them to do. Where mistakes have been made, the responsibility rests with me.

It is clear that we need to change our strategy in Iraq. So my national security team, military commanders, and diplomats conducted a comprehensive review. We consulted members of Congress from both parties, our allies abroad, and distinguished outside experts. We benefitted from the thoughtful recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan panel led by former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton. In our discussions, we all agreed that there is no magic formula for success in Iraq. And one message came through loud and clear: Failure in Iraq would be a disaster for the United States.

The consequences of failure are clear: Radical Islamic extremists would grow in strength and gain new recruits. They would be in a better position to topple moderate governments, create chaos in the region, and use oil revenues to fund their ambitions. Iran would be emboldened in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Our enemies would have a safe haven from which to plan and launch attacks on the American people. On September the 11th, 2001, we saw what a refuge for extremists on the other side of the world could bring to the streets of our own cities. For



Failure in
Iraq
here at
home

the safety of our people, America must succeed in Iraq.

The most urgent priority for success in Iraq is security, especially in Baghdad. Eighty percent of Iraq's sectarian violence occurs within 30 miles of the capital. This violence is splitting Baghdad into sectarian enclaves, and shaking the confidence of all Iraqis. Only Iraqis can end the sectarian violence and secure their people. And their government has put forward an aggressive plan to do it.

Our past efforts to secure Baghdad failed for two principal reasons: There were not enough Iraqi and American troops to secure neighborhoods that had been cleared of terrorists and insurgents. And there were too many restrictions on the troops we did have. Our military commanders reviewed the new Iraqi plan to ensure that it addressed these mistakes. They report that it does. They also report that this plan can work.

Now let me explain the main elements of this effort: The Iraqi government will appoint a military commander and two deputy commanders for their capital. The Iraqi government will deploy Iraqi Army and National Police brigades across Baghdad's nine districts. When these forces are fully deployed, there will be 18 Iraqi Army and National Police brigades committed to this effort, along with local police. These Iraqi forces will operate from local police stations -- conducting patrols and setting up checkpoints, and going door-to-door to gain the trust of Baghdad residents.

This is a strong commitment. But for it to succeed, our commanders say the Iraqis will need our help. So America will change our strategy to help the Iraqis carry out their campaign to put down sectarian violence and bring security to the people of Baghdad. This will require increasing American force levels. So I've committed more than 20,000 additional American troops to Iraq. The vast majority of them -- five brigades -- will be deployed to Baghdad. These troops will work alongside Iraqi units and be embedded in their formations. Our troops will have a well-defined mission: to help Iraqis clear and secure neighborhoods, to help them protect the local population, and to help ensure that the Iraqi forces left behind are capable of providing the security that Baghdad needs.

Many listening tonight will ask why this effort will succeed when previous operations to secure Baghdad did not. Well, here are the differences: In earlier operations, Iraqi and American forces cleared many neighborhoods of terrorists and insurgents, but when our forces moved on to other targets, the killers returned. This time, we'll have the force levels we need to hold the areas that have been cleared. In earlier operations, political and sectarian interference prevented Iraqi and American forces from going into neighborhoods that are home to those fueling the sectarian violence. This time, Iraqi and American forces will have a green light to enter those neighborhoods -- and Prime Minister Maliki has pledged that political or sectarian interference will not be tolerated.

I've made it clear to the Prime Minister and Iraq's other leaders that America's commitment is not open-ended. If the Iraqi government does not follow through on its promises, it will lose the support of the American people -- and it will lose the support of the Iraqi people. Now is the time to act. The Prime Minister understands this. Here is what he told his people just last week: "The Baghdad security plan will not provide a safe haven for any outlaws, regardless of [their] sectarian or political affiliation."

This new strategy will not yield an immediate end to suicide bombings, assassinations, or IED attacks. Our enemies in Iraq will make every effort to ensure that our television screens are filled with images of death and suffering. Yet over time, we can expect to see Iraqi troops chasing down murderers, fewer brazen acts of terror, and growing trust and cooperation from Baghdad's residents. When this happens, daily life will improve, Iraqis will gain confidence in their leaders, and the government will have the breathing space it needs to make progress in other critical areas. Most of Iraq's Sunni and Shia want to live together in peace -- and reducing the violence in Baghdad will help make reconciliation possible.

A successful strategy for Iraq goes beyond military operations. Ordinary Iraqi citizens must see that military operations are accompanied by visible improvements in their neighborhoods and communities. So America will hold the Iraqi government to the benchmarks it has announced.

To establish its authority, the Iraqi government plans to take responsibility for security in all of Iraq's provinces by November. To give every Iraqi citizen a stake in the country's economy, Iraq will pass legislation to share oil revenues among all Iraqis. To show that it is committed to delivering a better life, the Iraqi government will spend \$10 billion of its own money on reconstruction and infrastructure projects that will create new jobs. To empower local leaders, Iraqis plan to hold provincial elections later this year. And to allow more Iraqis to re-enter their

nation's political life, the government will reform de-Baathification laws, and establish a fair process for considering amendments to Iraq's constitution.

America will change our approach to help the Iraqi government as it works to meet these benchmarks. In keeping with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, we will increase the embedding of American advisers in Iraqi Army units, and partner a coalition brigade with every Iraqi Army division. We will help the Iraqis build a larger and better-equipped army, and we will accelerate the training of Iraqi forces, which remains the essential U.S. security mission in Iraq. We will give our commanders and civilians greater flexibility to spend funds for economic assistance. We will double the number of provincial reconstruction teams. These teams bring together military and civilian experts to help local Iraqi communities pursue reconciliation, strengthen the moderates, and speed the transition to Iraqi self-reliance. And Secretary Rice will soon appoint a reconstruction coordinator in Baghdad to ensure better results for economic assistance being spent in Iraq.

As we make these changes, we will continue to pursue al Qaeda and foreign fighters. Al Qaeda is still active in Iraq. Its home base is Anbar Province. Al Qaeda has helped make Anbar the most violent area of Iraq outside the capital. A captured al Qaeda document describes the terrorists' plan to infiltrate and seize control of the province. This would bring al Qaeda closer to its goals of taking down Iraq's democracy, building a radical Islamic empire, and launching new attacks on the United States at home and abroad.

Our military forces in Anbar are killing and capturing al Qaeda leaders, and they are protecting the local population. Recently, local tribal leaders have begun to show their willingness to take on al Qaeda. And as a result, our commanders believe we have an opportunity to deal a serious blow to the terrorists. So I have given orders to increase American forces in Anbar Province by 4,000 troops. These troops will work with Iraqi and tribal forces to keep up the pressure on the terrorists. America's men and women in uniform took away al Qaeda's safe haven in Afghanistan -- and we will not allow them to re-establish it in Iraq.

Succeeding in Iraq also requires defending its territorial integrity and stabilizing the region in the face of extremist challenges. This begins with addressing Iran and Syria. These two regimes are allowing terrorists and insurgents to use their territory to move in and out of Iraq. Iran is providing material support for attacks on American troops. We will disrupt the attacks on our forces. We'll interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. And we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq.

We're also taking other steps to bolster the security of Iraq and protect American interests in the Middle East. I recently ordered the deployment of an additional carrier strike group to the region. We will expand intelligence-sharing and deploy Patriot air defense systems to reassure our friends and allies. We will work with the governments of Turkey and Iraq to help them resolve problems along their border. And we will work with others to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons and dominating the region.

We will use America's full diplomatic resources to rally support for Iraq from nations throughout the Middle East. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and the Gulf States need to understand that an American defeat in Iraq would create a new sanctuary for extremists and a strategic threat to their survival. These nations have a stake in a successful Iraq that is at peace with its neighbors, and they must step up their support for Iraq's unity government. We endorse the Iraqi government's call to finalize an International Compact that will bring new economic assistance in exchange for greater economic reform. And on Friday, Secretary Rice will leave for the region, to build support for Iraq and continue the urgent diplomacy required to help bring peace to the Middle East.

The challenge playing out across the broader Middle East is more than a military conflict. It is the decisive ideological struggle of our time. On one side are those who believe in freedom and moderation. On the other side are extremists who kill the innocent, and have declared their intention to destroy our way of life. In the long run, the most realistic way to protect the American people is to provide a hopeful alternative to the hateful ideology of the enemy, by advancing liberty across a troubled region. It is in the interests of the United States to stand with the brave men and women who are risking their lives to claim their freedom, and to help them as they work to raise up just and hopeful societies across the Middle East.

From Afghanistan to Lebanon to the Palestinian Territories, millions of ordinary people are sick of the violence, and want a future of peace and opportunity for their children. And they are looking at Iraq. They want to know: Will America withdraw and yield the future of that country to the extremists, or will we stand with the Iraqis who have made the choice for freedom?

The changes I have outlined tonight are aimed at ensuring the survival of a young democracy that is fighting for its life in a part of the world of enormous importance to American security. Let me be clear: The terrorists and insurgents in Iraq are without conscience, and they will make the year ahead bloody and violent. Even if our new strategy works exactly as planned, deadly acts of violence will continue -- and we must expect more Iraqi and American casualties. The question is whether our new strategy will bring us closer to success. I believe that it will.

Victory will not look like the ones our fathers and grandfathers achieved. There will be no surrender ceremony on the deck of a battleship. But victory in Iraq will bring something new in the Arab world -- a functioning democracy that polices its territory, upholds the rule of law, respects fundamental human liberties, and answers to its people. A democratic Iraq will not be perfect. But it will be a country that fights terrorists instead of harboring them -- and it will help bring a future of peace and security for our children and our grandchildren.

This new approach comes after consultations with Congress about the different courses we could take in Iraq. Many are concerned that the Iraqis are becoming too dependent on the United States, and therefore, our policy should focus on protecting Iraq's borders and hunting down al Qaeda. Their solution is to scale back America's efforts in Baghdad -- or announce the phased withdrawal of our combat forces. We carefully considered these proposals. And we concluded that to step back now would force a collapse of the Iraqi government, tear the country apart, and result in mass killings on an unimaginable scale. Such a scenario would result in our troops being forced to stay in Iraq even longer, and confront an enemy that is even more lethal. If we increase our support at this crucial moment, and help the Iraqis break the current cycle of violence, we can hasten the day our troops begin coming home.

In the days ahead, my national security team will fully brief Congress on our new strategy. If members have improvements that can be made, we will make them. If circumstances change, we will adjust. Honorable people have different views, and they will voice their criticisms. It is fair to hold our views up to scrutiny. And all involved have a responsibility to explain how the path they propose would be more likely to succeed.

Acting on the good advice of Senator Joe Lieberman and other key members of Congress, we will form a new, bipartisan working group that will help us come together across party lines to win the war on terror. This group will meet regularly with me and my administration; it will help strengthen our relationship with Congress. We can begin by working together to increase the size of the active Army and Marine Corps, so that America has the Armed Forces we need for the 21st century. We also need to examine ways to mobilize talented American civilians to deploy overseas, where they can help build democratic institutions in communities and nations recovering from war and tyranny.

In these dangerous times, the United States is blessed to have extraordinary and selfless men and women willing to step forward and defend us. These young Americans understand that our cause in Iraq is noble and necessary -- and that the advance of freedom is the calling of our time. They serve far from their families, who make the quiet sacrifices of lonely holidays and empty chairs at the dinner table. They have watched their comrades give their lives to ensure our liberty. We mourn the loss of every fallen American -- and we owe it to them to build a future worthy of their sacrifice.

Fellow citizens: The year ahead will demand more patience, sacrifice, and resolve. It can be tempting to think that America can put aside the burdens of freedom. Yet times of testing reveal the character of a nation. And throughout our history, Americans have always defied the pessimists and seen our faith in freedom redeemed. Now America is engaged in a new struggle that will set the course for a new century. We can, and we will, prevail.

We go forward with trust that the Author of Liberty will guide us through these trying hours. Thank you and good night.

END 9:21 P.M. EST

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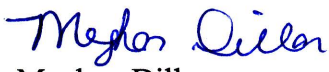
December 19, 2006

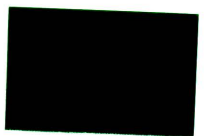
Dear President Bush,

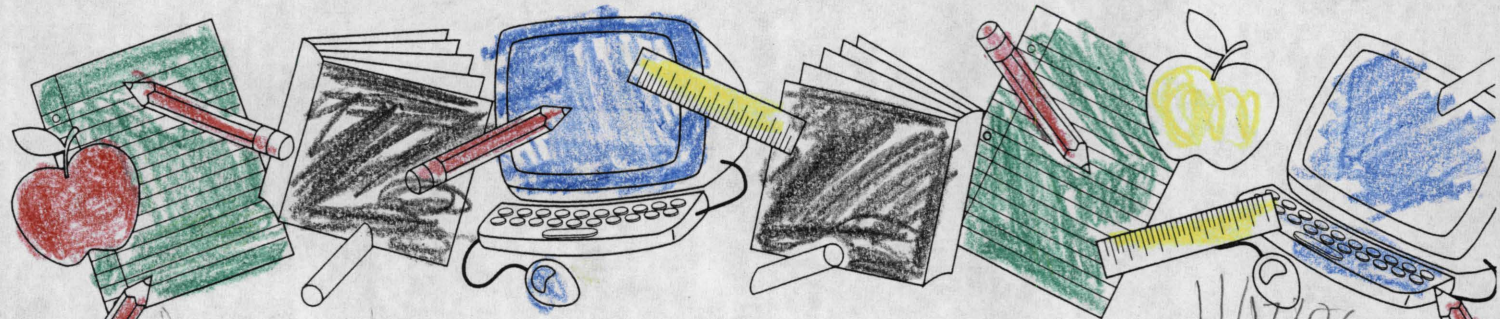
My name is Meghan Dillon. I am a second grade teacher at Excellence Charter School in Bedford Stuyvesant, New York. Some of my scholars and I have been working hard to understand non-fiction text and related articles. Recently, we were working on the skill of determining the difference between fact and opinion. The students read many articles about the War in Iraq. After reading the articles, they formed opinions about the War and decided to write letters to you to express their opinions. These young scholars are 6 and 7 years old and they have formed opinions about a very important topic. I hope that you are as impressed with their letters as I am.

Thank you for your leadership and guidance of our country. May God bless our nation and people, both at home and abroad, during the holiday season.

Sincerely,


Meghan Dillon



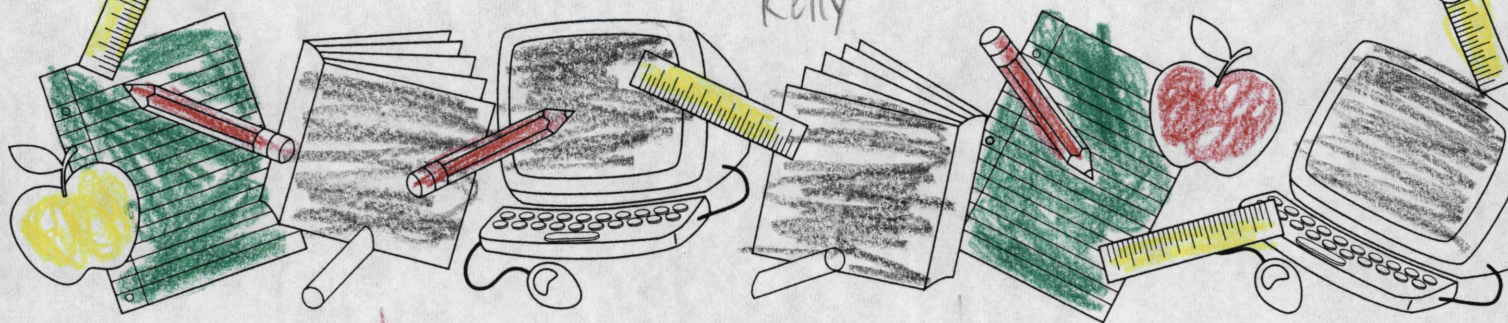


11/17/06

Dear President Bush,

Hi I'm Kelly. I am a second grade Student in Excellence Charter School located at Bedford Stuyversant. I am learning about the war in Iraq. I learned that Iraq is fighting over the government and money from oil. While the americans are trying to set up a democracy for Iraq, they get caught in a crossfire that is surrounding them. I think that they should help them then leave.

Sincerely,
Kelly



Date: 11/17/06

Dear President Bush,

Hi my name is Daniel Austin I am a second grade student at Excellence Charter School. My group has been studying about the war in IRAQ. I think American troops should come home. Because they are caught in the crossfire of the Shiites Sunnis & Kurds. 2,800 of our troops have died! we should help people even though they are from a different country.

Sincerely,
Dan

11/17/06

Dear President Bush,

Hi I'm Tafari. My school is Excellence charter school. I learned about the war in Iraq, and the Shiite and the Sunni Muslims were fighting about who would control the government. The Americans should stay in Iraq and setup a democracy for Iraq, so the people in Iraq can have a government and so Iraqis can have some peace.

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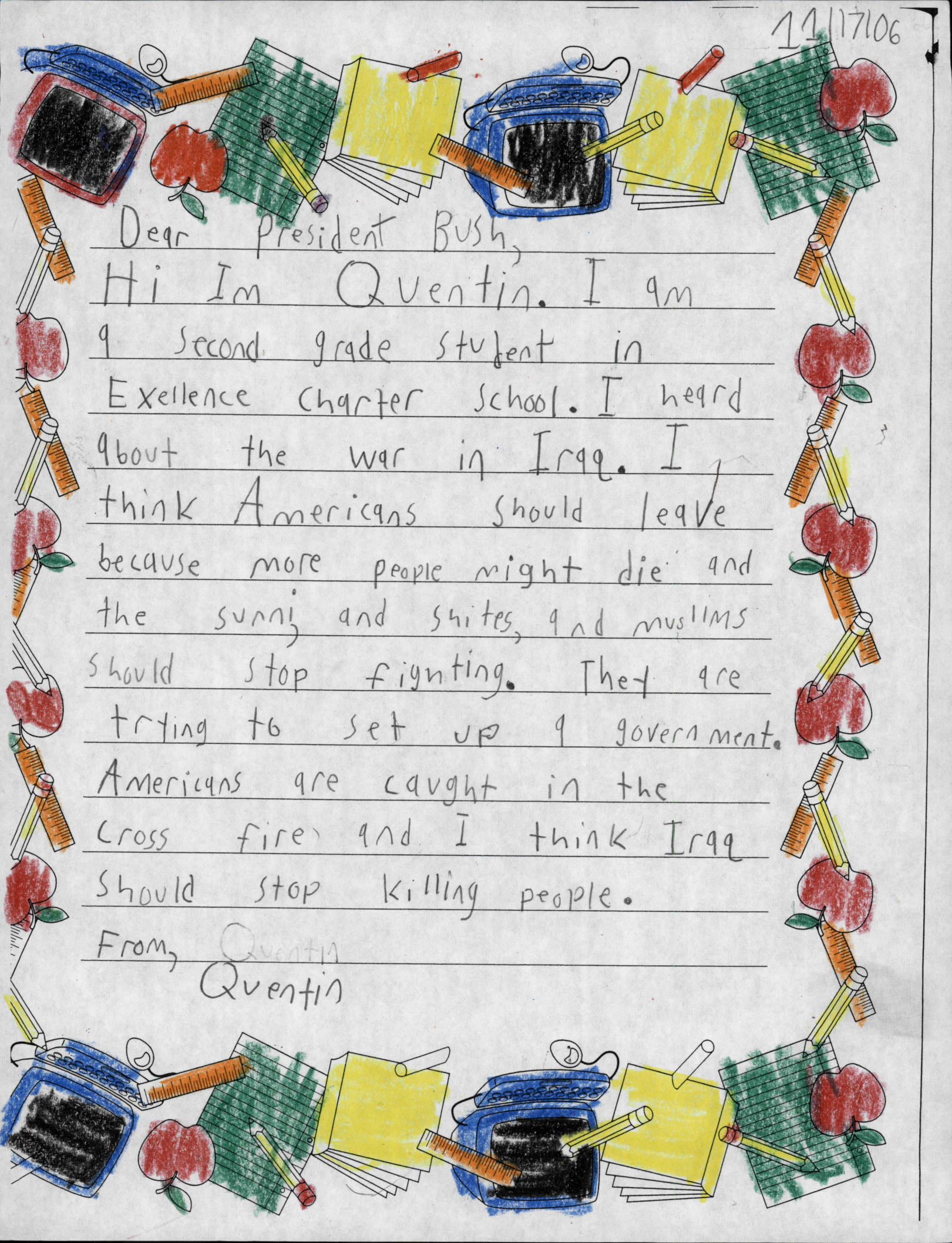
11/17/06

Dear PPresident Bush,
Hi, my name is Elijah Aggerman
and I am a second grader in
EXCELLENCE CHARTER
SCHOOL. We have been learning
about the war in IRAQ. We know
the shiite & Sunni Muslims are
fighting each other. They are trying
to set up a government. Americans
are caught in the crossfire.
IRAQ and AMERICANS should
be friends. I am sad that
they are fighting.

from
Elijah A.

Some thing on the
back.

11/17/06

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a repeating pattern of school supplies including blue calculators, yellow notepaper, green graph paper, red apples, orange rulers, and yellow pencils.

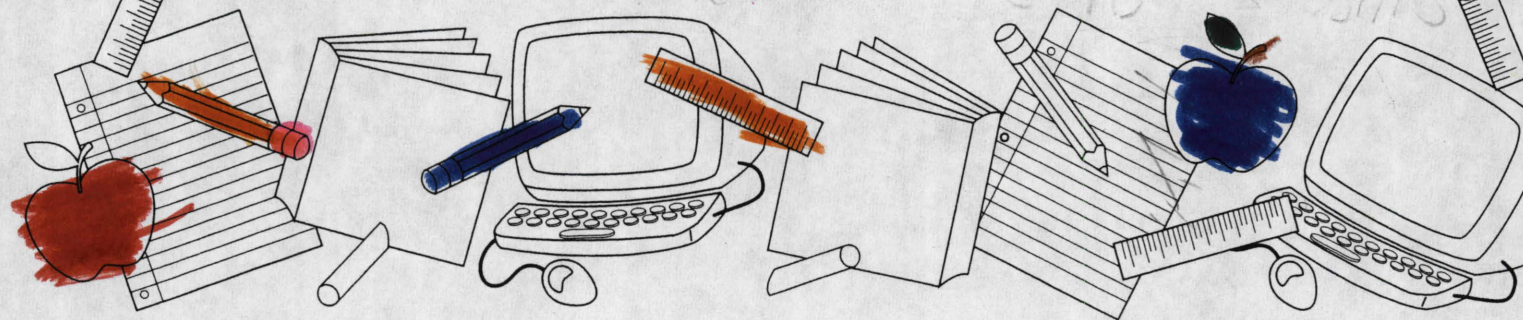
Dear President Bush,
Hi Im Quentin. I am
a second grade student in
Excellence Charter School. I heard
about the war in Iraq. I
think Americans should leave
because more people might die and
the sunni and shites, and muslims
should stop fighting. They are
trying to set up a government.
Americans are caught in the
cross fire and I think Iraq
should stop killing people.

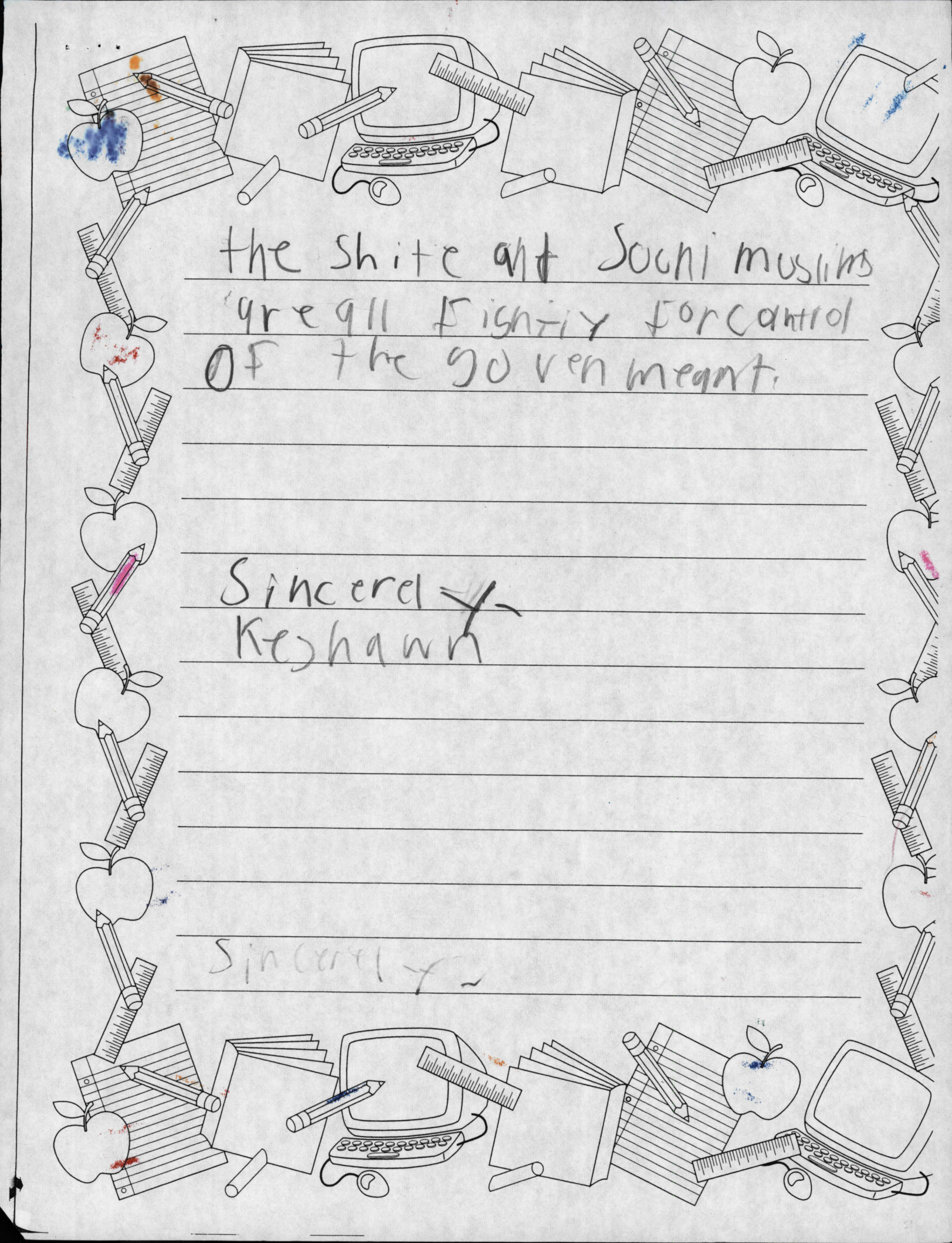
From, Quentin
Quentin

11/17/08

Dear President Bush,

My name is Ke Shawn
and I am a student in
Excellence charter school
of Bedford-Stuyvesant.
I have been reading
about the war in Iraq.
I think that the troops
should stay in Iraq to
to make the democracy and
teach them how to use
it and then leave. I heard
that the Americans are stuck
in the killing. I learned that



A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring various school supplies like notebooks, pencils, and rulers, interspersed with apples. Some apples have blue or red stains on them.

the shite at Sochi muslims
are all fighting for control
of the government.

Sincerely
Keshawn

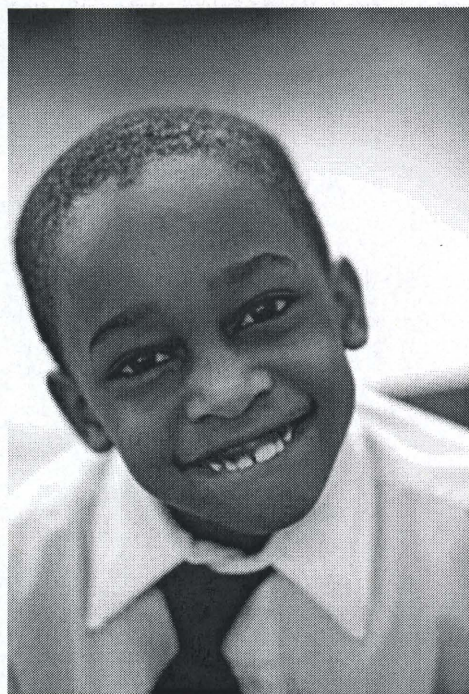
Sincerely

EXCELLENCE

Charter School

A member of Uncommon Schools

ABOUT US ■ PEOPLE ■ OUR RESULTS ■ CAREER OPPORTUNITIES ■ NEWS & EVENTS ■ CC



Contact Us

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant

225 Patchen Avenue
 (Between Macon and Macdonough Streets)
 Brooklyn, NY 11233
 Phone: (718) 638-1830
 Fax: (718) 638-2548



► [Click here for a map and point-to-point direction.](#) (provided by Google Maps)

By Train from Manhattan (via A/C Train)

- Take the A Train towards Brooklyn to the Utica Avenue Station.
- Exit the train and walk in the direction of the train to the east.
- Exit the station and walk down Fulton Street, crossing over the Expressway.
- One block down, make a left on Patchen Avenue.
- Excellence is five blocks down Patchen, between Macdonough and Fulton.

Bridget Borsinger
Excellence Charter School
225 Patchen Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11233

19 December 2006

Dear President Bush:

I have the honor and privilege of teaching at a high performing all-male charter school in Bedford Stuyvesant. As a former Teach for American corps member I feel dedicated to improving the quality of education in low income and minority communities. When I arrived at Excellence Charter School I was blown away by the intellectual ability and performance of these young boys. Every day each teacher at Excellence is striving to challenge our scholars.

Last month when second grade was to cover fact and opinion we decided to forgo the popular debate of, "Should students have to wear uniforms?" Instead we chose to cover the Iraq conflict with our seven and eight year old scholars. It was my firmest belief that these children had the ability to comprehend and analyze the conflict at their level.

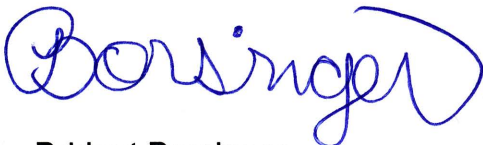
Throughout the two week unit we read several articles, watched documentary clips and even had a guest speaker. One of our students spoke to the group about the experience having his father serve in Iraq. Eloquently, he described what it was like during his father's tour. Additionally, he was able to convey the difference in his father's view on the war and his own (an ability I thought was quite remarkable for a seven year old).

As the closing project for our unit the scholars wrote you a letter. Each letter was written with great care for detail and with the best of intentions. I personally was impressed by their analysis and probing questions.

The scholars continue to read up on Iraq. So many of them requested follow up articles that we now have a reading center dedicated to the study of conflict in the Middle East, Afghanistan and North Korea. It is impressive to see these boys talk about such subjects.

It means a great deal to the scholars and me that you would read these letters. Thank you for your dedication to our country and your relentless pursuit of peace.

Sincerely,



Bridget Borsinger
Second Grade Lead Teacher
Excellence Charter School

incoming:
Borsinger

Jehni Hutchins Belgrave

Excellence Charter
225 Patchen Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11233

November 20, 2006

President Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Bush:

Hello, my name is Jehni. I am seven years old. I am in second grade. I go to Excellence Charter School.

I learned before Iraqis goes to work they get bread. They bomb schools. I learned that a lot of people died in the war. I learned that they had Weapons of Mass Destruction.

I think that the war should stop and the Americans should get new weapons. I think we should stop so people can see their families and so Iraqis can help make more money for schools. I think that Americans should make new plans like this one they should hide and when they see militars ^{the} come the Americans come out and shoot them. I think that we should have private armys to. Because people wouldn't know that we ^{have} private armys to kill some Iraqis. Because that might be a good stragieght.

I wonder why the Iraqis wanted
to fight us. I wonder why they
have big weapons.



Sincerely,
Jelani

Justin Che Williams

Excellence Charter

225 Patchen Ave

Brooklyn, NY 11233

November 20, 2006

President Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Bush:

Hello, my name is Justin
I am 6 years old. I am
second grade Excellence
Charter School.

I was reading a book I read
and the war and about the
bomb people. I read that
had a war and people
got killed and got hurt
and the two wars
fell and when they
won the war they
were happy that 2,800
villains were not killed
by the war and
when the war was over
and when the USA and North
Korea was the evil
empire. So can we
have a movie.

I think we will
win the war and
get a cash prize
and then you can
mix up with trees
and the water
and the war.

I wish we could
win the war
and get
new people and
win the war
again.

Sincerely,

Justin W.

Justin W.

Bruce Green

Excellence Charter
225 Patchen Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11233

November 20, 2006

President Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Bush:

Hello, my name is Bruce
and I am 7 years old and I
am in the 2 grade I am
going to be in the 3rd grade
at the Excellence Charter School.

I was reading about Iraq and I
learned the children had been
killed. Their mothers had been
killed too. and it is dangerous in
Iraq.

I think the war should stop because
people are getting killed and I want
every body to stay alive so we would
make friends so we could play
together. I wonder who started
the war and why they

I wonder who started the war and
why because I want the war
to be over so I could make

everybody to be friends
and play together and
have fun. sin.

sincerely,
Bruce Green.

Othello Smith

Excellence Charter
225 Patchen Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11233

November 20, 2006

President Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Bush:

Hello, my name is
Othello I'm in second
grade the name of
my school is Excellence
Charter School

I was learning about Iraq.
It is still going on it
started 1999. We went
to Kuwait. And
the Iraqis were hiding
there WMD from people.
They kept moving their
WMD, so we went to war
the evil empire.

I think the violence
should stop. I think
they should give up
stop bombing the Bakery
with bombs on them.

I wonder why they
kill kids? an
bombed school an the
~~Why do they~~ Bomb
so much

Sincerely,
Othello

Giovanni Desgorttes

Excellence Charter
225 Patchen Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11233

November 20, 2006

President Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Bush:

Hi My name is Gio I am seven. I'm in the
~~Integrating Art Excellence Charter School~~ if you

I was learning about Iraq and the war. I learned
that the increase in fighting has renewed calls for a
change in strategy. That means we should know how to
fight the war. ~~We~~ have to rethink it because
people are dying.

I think that the war should stop. Because
brothers and sisters Momm and dadd are dying.

I wonder why North Korea, Afghanistan and Iraq
are the evil capitals. Sinc

Sincerely,
Giovanni

Rahmel Dixon

Excellence Charter
225 Patchen Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11233

November 20, 2006

President Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Bush:

Hello, my name is Rahmel.
I am in second grade and I am 7
years old. My school is named
Excellence charter school of Bedford
Sty.

I am learning about IRAQ and
the war. The war is going on again.
I know that people and families are
being killed in October. Making October
one of the deadliest months of the
year. I also know that the vilce
is still going on. It is getting worse
in November and probly in December.

I thing the war should be still
going on because if we stop we
might not oil for our cars.
I thing we should have a privit
army to defend our selves.

I wonder why the war
is still going on.

Sincerely,

Rahmel

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Barcode Scanning Sheet	759618 CF	1	07/23/2008	P1/b1;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
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COLLECTION:

Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - ED001 (Libraries/Facilities)

FOLDER TITLE:

717244 - 771068

FRC ID:

11101

FOIA IDs and Segments:

OA Num.:

11639

NARA Num.:

11772

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

- 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).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C.F.

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FOR THE FILE

ID #

759618 SS

ED001

CORRESPONDENCE FILED CENTRAL FILES - CONFIDENTIAL FILE

C.F.

BLOUNT_P

770479

ED001

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **CTRACK**

Staff Name:

Document Date: **11/05/2008**

Correspondent: **DR. GARY STREIT**

Subject/Description: **THANK YOU FOR INVITING MRS. BUSH TO SPEAK AT
THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES FOR MALONE
UNIVERSITY, PENDING POST-ADMINISTRATION
SCHEDULING.**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 5, 2008

770479

Dr. Gary Streit
President of Malone University
2600 Cleveland Avenue, N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44709-3897

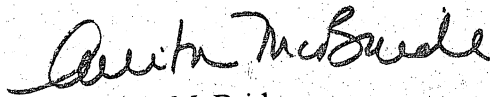
Dear Dr. Streit:

Thank you for inviting Mrs. Bush to speak at the commencement ceremonies for Malone University.

Mrs. Bush appreciates your thoughtfulness in writing and values the opportunity your invitation presents. I will ensure that your request goes to the appropriate staff member who will oversee President and Mrs. Bush's post-Administration schedule.

Mrs. Bush sends her congratulatory wishes on the school's new name.

Sincerely,



Anita B. McBride
Assistant to the President
and Chief of Staff to the First Lady

NOV -6 2008

NO INC REC'D IN ORM

ROACH_CL

771068

ED001

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **CTRACK**

Staff Name:

Document Date: **11/07/2008**

Correspondent: **COACH PHILLIP FULMER**

Subject/Description: **TWO EVENTS HAVE CAUSED ME TO WRITE. FIRST, I SAW YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE DECISION TO LEAVE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE. SECONDLY, I MET JOHN C. "THUNDER" THORNTON WHO TOLD ME OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP.**

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Letter	[Phillip Fulmer Letter] - To: Phillip Fulmer - From: POTUS	1	11/07/2008	P6/b6;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
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Coach Phillip Fulmer

(b)(6)

Mr. PRESIDENT



**THUNDER
ENTERPRISES**

JOHN C. THORNTON
PRESIDENT

12 RIVERVISTA DRIVE
P.O. BOX 4737
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37405
WWW.THUNDERENTERPRISES.COM

Thanks,
Thunder

PHONE (423) 267-5646
MOBILE (423) 903-8997
FAX (423) 267-3645
THUNDER@THUNDERENTERPRISES.COM

Background
do not send