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Office of Laura Bush - Projects and Policy

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Binder - Mrs. Bush's Press Clips & Photos, India: 03/02/2006 - 03/04/2006 [2]

Agence France Presse -- English

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: Bush holds terror talks with Musharraf in Pakistan

US President George W. Bush held talks with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday, at which he was to push his key ally for more progress on the "war on terror" and on democracy.

Pakistani police detained opposition leaders including former cricketer Imran Khan to prevent planned protests, while tensions remained high after a suicide bomber killed a US diplomat in Karachi on Thursday.

Unprecedented security turned Islamabad into a ghost town for the first visit to Pakistan by Bush, who arrived with his wife Laura late Friday on the final leg of a South Asian tour that has also taken in India and Afghanistan.

Musharraf and Bush held a "fruitful" one-on-one meeting at the imposing presidential compound in Islamabad, a Pakistani official said. Bush earlier inspected an honour guard of Pakistani soldiers.

"They discussed all issues, the fight against terrorism, Kashmir, the regional situation, Iraq. It was a very comprehensive, friendly and relaxed meeting," the official said on condition of anonymity.

First Lady **Laura Bush** met Musharraf's wife Sehba and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's wife Rukshana, the official added.

Two US Black Hawk helicopters circled low over central Islamabad throughout the visit, anti-aircraft guns were positioned on nearby hillsides and thousands of police lined the streets.

"I will meet with President Musharraf to discuss Pakistan's vital cooperation in the war on terror and our effort to foster economic and political development so we could reduce the appeal of radical Islam," Bush said in New Delhi late Friday.

"I believe a prosperous democratic Pakistan would be a steadfast partner for America and a peaceful neighbour for India and a force for freedom and moderation in the Arab world," he added.

A White House official later said Bush meant to say "Muslim world".

Bush spent the night at the heavily fortified US embassy and will spend the whole day in Islamabad, also meeting businessmen and attending a banquet -- which opposition legislators have vowed to boycott.

Bush, an avid baseball fan, was expected to meet Pakistani cricket captain Inzamam-ul Haq, vice captain Younis Khan and opener Salman Butt as well as child players from this cricket-crazy country.

Bush's maiden trip to Pakistan despite the security risks is being seen as a show of solidarity for Musharraf, whose alliance with Washington since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States has angered Islamists at home.

Pakistan has around 70,000 troops along the rugged frontier with Afghanistan where Osama bin Laden and other militants are thought to be hiding and has caught several key Al-Qaeda militants.

But Bush said before his tour that he would remind his "friend" Musharraf of the need to do more to combat terrorism and cross-border infiltration.

Meanwhile the US leader's comments on democracy reflect the fact that military ruler Musharraf has refused to shed his role as army chief more than six years after he seized power in a bloodless coup.

Opposition Islamic groups led a national strike and protests against cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed on Friday, which turned into anti-Bush rallies, and called for Pakistanis to observe a "black day" on Saturday.

A spokesman for Imran Khan's small Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf or Movement for Justice party, told AFP that the ex-cricket captain was under house arrest to stop him leading a protest in Rawalpindi near Islamabad.

Police also detained a lawmaker from Pakistan's main alliance of religious parties who planned to head the rally instead, and dozens of other activists.

For Pakistan the visit is a chance to consolidate its relationship with Washington, after Bush hailed a new strategic partnership with Islamabad's traditional rival New Delhi.

Bush clinched a landmark nuclear energy deal with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and Pakistan says it wants a "similar" arrangement despite a proliferation scandal involving its disgraced top nuclear scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan.

Musharraf is expected to ask Bush to push India on the their nearly six-decade-old feud over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, trigger of two of their three wars. India and Pakistan began a peace process in 2004.

Officials said Pakistan and the United States were also working on finalizing a bilateral investment treaty, seen as a first step to a Free Trade Agreement.

The Pakistan Newswire

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: **Laura Bush** stresses promotion of literacy

The American First Lady **Laura Bush** has stressed promotion of literacy in Pakistan. Speaking at a roundtable conference on Pakistan educational projects, held at the US embassy here Saturday in collaboration with the US Aid and UNESCO, she said that illiteracy was an international issue. She said Pakistan with persistent effort and support from the US Aid and UNESCO would achieve its targets in the education field. **Laura Bush** was briefed on Pakistan's key education projects in the conference including the 'Early Childhood Education Programme', teachers training programme and literacy programme for illiterate parents. Regional Director General UNESCO briefed Mrs. **Laura Bush** about existing literacy rate in South Asian countries and in various parts of Pakistan and literacy targets fixed for the nation. Pakistan has the lowest literacy rate in South Asia i. E. 48.7%. **Mrs. Bush** was told 88% literacy target has been fixed to achieve till 2015. The US first lady also saw a model classroom and demonstration of modern teaching methods. **Mrs. Bush** distributed gifts among the children.

Hindustan Times

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: Illiteracy, an issue of global concern: **Laura Bush**

BYLINE: Hindustan Times

Islamabad, March 4 -- Addressing a roundtable conference on educational projects in Pakistan on Saturday, U.S. First Lady **Laura Bush** said that illiteracy was a concern of international proportions, but expressed confidence that Pakistan would achieve its education-related targets with support from USAID and UNESCO.

During the conference, which was held at the US embassy in Islamabad, **Laura Bush** was briefed on Pakistan's key education projects, including the 'Early Childhood Education Programme', teachers training programme and literacy programme for illiterate parents.

The Regional Director General of Unesco briefed the U.S. First Lady about existing literacy rate in South Asia and in various parts of Pakistan and literacy targets fixed for the nation.

Pakistan has the lowest literacy rate in South Asia of 48.7 percent, **Mrs. Bush** was told, and a literacy target of 88 percent has been set. This target is to be achieved by 2015.

The U.S. First Lady was also shown a model classroom and demonstration of modern teaching methods. She used the opportunity to distribute gifts among the children.

The Pakistan Newswire

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: BUSH: Lady Laura meets Begum Musharraf

The American First Lady **Laura Bush** on Saturday morning met Pakistan's first Lady begum Pervez Musharraf at the Awan-e-Saddar. Lady Laura arrived at the Awan-e-Sadar from the American embassy where the American President and his wife are staying. She arrived at the Awan-e-Saddar after nearly an-hour when the two Presidents' had already started their one to one meeting.

BBC Worldwide Monitoring

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: US first lady calls for promoting education in Pakistan

Text of report by Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency

Islamabad, 4 March: US First Lady **Laura Bush** on Saturday [4 March] stressed the need for promotion of education in the country, with special focus on advanced skill training for teachers. "Education is an issue of concern worldwide... [ellipsis as received] and we (United States) want Pakistan to shift from simple qualifications to advanced methodology in the educational field. This can help people to lead life with success," she said in a roundtable talk with the representatives of UNESCO, Federal Directorate of Education, Children Resource International (CRI) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at US embassy here.

Laura Bush said United States and Pakistan were partners in education as the former was running several literacy projects under the umbrella of USAID and UNESCO in the country. She emphasized on the direct involvement of parents and teachers in the educational activities of a child. "Children need parents and teachers to help them prepare for success in school and in life. Once in classrooms, our children deserve excellent teachers and high-quality education."

Being a graduate of education and a former public school teacher, Laura said she believed teachers' training was a must to update them with advanced methodology. She said President Bush's commitment for the promotion of education continues from the time he was the governor of Texas and played an active role on focussing research on teaching methodology.

Regional Director-General UNESCO Jorge Sequeira briefing the US first lady said Pakistan was lagging behind in regional educational perspective with 48.7 per cent literacy rate as compared to Sri Lanka with 90.4 pc and India 61 pc. He said in Pakistan there was a need to overcome educational disparity as the ratio of child literacy was 58 per cent, while focus was being laid on ensuring that all boys and girls complete their primary level by year 2015.

Director-General Federal Directorate of Education Brig (retd) Maqsood-ul-Hassan said the government was successfully carrying out American "Interactive child-centred methodology" through CRI in its 150 schools in Islamabad. He said under the project, specialized courses for teachers were being carried out besides introducing interactive methodology in 40 universities in the country. Chief Executive CRI Mehnaz Aziz said the aim of the project was to link the youth with global reality through advanced educational means. She said more than 25,000 children in ICT [Islamabad Capital territory], Rawalpindi district and Karachi were benefiting from the change brought about in classroom environment.

Later, the US first lady distributed gifts among the group of school children which amused her by presenting self-created tales in a playful manner.

BBC Worldwide Monitoring

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: US president promises continued assistance to Pakistan for quake relief

BYLINE: Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency

Islamabad, 4 March: US President George W. Bush Saturday [4 March] vowed continued support for Pakistan's reconstruction and recovery efforts in the quake zone, describing October last catastrophe as a "staggering" natural disaster. The visiting leader, who met with quake survivors at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] along with President Pervez Musharraf and also watched a documentary on the scale of damage and post-quake relief efforts, said the US is proud of having assisted Pakistan in its hour of need.

"It is staggering what the people have gone through in the quake. It is unbelievable. We are proud to stand by Pakistan in dealing with the disaster," he said at a post-talks press interaction. The 7.6-magnitude 8 October quake killed 73000 people, injured an equal number and left more than three million shelterless at the start of harsh winter. Referring to half a billion dollars assistance by US, he said it spoke of closeness between the two peoples.

President Bush and First Lady **Laura Bush**, accompanied by President Musharraf and First Lady Begum Sehba Musharraf, met with orphaned children, amputees and women survivors and expressed their sympathy and support for them. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was also present.

President Bush praised the resilience of the Pakistani nation and efforts of the Pakistan army and non-governmental organizations in facing the gigantic natural disaster. He also met with the American military officials engaged in airlifting relief supplies and lauded their services.

President Musharraf expressed the Pakistani nation's gratitude for American help in carrying out early rescue and medical relief operations in the mountainous regions of NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He said the American Chinook helicopters had been "critical" in the immediate rescue and relief operations with their life-saving missions. The visiting leader was briefed about Pakistan's post-quake relief and reconstruction efforts.

The Times of India

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: Straight Answers

BYLINE: Jyothi Prabhakar

Nafisa Ali Activist on meeting and 'acting' with US First Lady **Laura Bush**.

Did you know beforehand that you were to meet **Laura Bush** and 'act' in the Indianised version of Sesame Street?

Yes. I got a call from the USAIDS a month ago and they wanted to know my name, birthdate, father's name, and where I was born, etc.

And then they told me that since **Laura Bush** had already visited the Sesame Street locations in the US and Egypt, she was keen on doing so in India too

What was your impression of the first lady of the US?

She came across as a warm, sensitive person. She communicated with all of us very naturally. I have met many dignitaries in the past, but none so down to earth and wonderfully communicative. Her little gestures spoke a lot about her.

For instance, when we were done and ready to leave, she asked us if the technicians would like a photo op with her... and posed happily, throwing the security guys into a tizzy.

Is she a good actor? What did she do on the sets?

We both had to sit under an artificial banyan tree while Chamki, the puppet character introduced us. We had already been told about the concept and were given the script in advance. In just two takes, we were done. And I thought to myself that she's such a natural actress...

How aware was **Laura Bush** about India and its problems?

She was aware of our HIV/AIDS causes and campaigns, culture, gender biases and had many questions regarding these issues. She was very thorough in her homework.

Were you invited for Bush's speech at Purana Quila?

Yes. It was such a momentous occasion for me. Here I was, sitting on the front row and listening to the most powerful person in the world speak.

Did you get to speak with Bush?

No. Just a warm handshake

Associated Press Worldstream

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: Primary school class comes to U.S. first lady in Pakistan

BYLINE: Rod McGurik

When American first lady **Laura Bush** wants to visit schoolchildren, she usually goes to a classroom. But not in Pakistan.

Because of security concerns, the children had to come to Bush on Saturday when she wanted to see how U.S. aid was being spent in Pakistani schools. A class of 22 fourth graders met with her at the fortress-like U.S. Embassy, where they tried to recreate their classroom atmosphere.

The class is part of a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. It replaces the rote learning in Pakistan's austere traditional schools with American-style interactive teaching.

Bush arrived Friday with her husband for a two-day trip. On the eve of their visit, a suicide bomber killed a U.S. diplomat and three others in the southern city of Karachi.

The American first lady, a former librarian and teacher, beamed as she watched a circle of students in an embassy room decorated with the children's art. The students, dressed in blue Western-style uniforms, engaged in an imagination exercise which involved making up stories revolving around a toy rabbit.

"That bunny over there is actually Bugs Bunny," the president's wife told a class of mostly 10-year-olds who were clearly less familiar with Western cartoon characters than their American counterparts.

The lesson ended with a class photograph. The first lady posed with her arm around Saeeda Qurbani.

"I got a warm hug from the president's wife. I wasn't expecting that, that's for sure," she said in Urdu. "I like her a lot."

In another room of the embassy, Bush met with education administrators involved in USAID-funded Children Resources International. The organization is introducing the new teaching method in Islamabad, nearby Rawalpindi and Karachi. The meeting included representatives of UNESCO and the Pakistan government.

This poor Islamic nation has one of Asia's lowest literacy rates, with only 48.7 percent of adults able to read and write.

Bush empathized with a teacher who lamented that the traditional teaching methods she learned in the Pakistani education system had not achieved results.

"I was the same way after graduating with a degree in education," **Laura Bush** said. "I started to

teach and I was wondering: Do I really know how to teach?"

The Bushes spent the night in the heavily fortified embassy compound after arriving from India.

The media were taken to the embassy on a bus that was thoroughly checked by a bomb sniffer dog. After getting off the bus, reporters had to go through two metal detector checks and their cameras and tape recorders were scrutinized by an X-ray machine and another sniffer dog. Reporters were then threatened with eviction if they touched a red rope that separated them from the president's wife.

Laura Bush began her only full day in Islamabad with the education program in the embassy, before driving to the Presidential Palace for tea with Pakistan's first lady, Sehba Musharraf. The route was completely closed off to traffic.

Hindustan Times

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: 'Educated' Laura lays stress on improved education of Pakistani teachers

BYLINE: Hindustan Times

Islamabad, March 5 -- US First Lady **Laura Bush**, who is a graduate of education and a former school teacher, said during her visit to Pakistan that the level of education of teachers in the country needed to be upgraded.

She said that that teachers' training was a must to update them with advanced methodology.

"Education is an issue of concern worldwide,...and we (the United States) want Pakistan to shift from simple qualifications to advanced methodology in the educational field. This can help people to lead life with success," the Dawn quoted Mrs Bush as saying at a roundtable with the representatives of the UNESCO, Federal Directorate of Education, Children Resource International (CRI) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at US embassy on Saturday.

Laura emphasized on direct involvement of parents and teachers in educational activities of a child. "Children need parents and teachers to help them prepare for success in school and in life. Once in classrooms, our children deserve excellent teachers and high-quality education," she said.

On the occasion, UNESCO Regional Director-General Jorge Sequeira briefed Mrs Bush on the status of education in the country. He said that Pakistan was lagging behind in regional educational perspective with 48.7 per cent literacy rate as compared to Sri Lanka with 90.4 per cent and India with 61 per cent.

Saudi Press Agency

March 5, 2006

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BYLINE: Saudi Press Agency

US President George W.

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Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, US Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C.

Crocker and Pakistan Foreign Ministry officials saw off Bush and First Lady **Laura Bush** at Chaklala Air Base, near Islamabad..

The Statesman (India)

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Imran Under House Arrest as Stir Peaks

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD March 4. Cricketer-turned politician Mr Imran Khan was today put under house arrest by Pakistan police which detained hundreds of Islamist leaders and opposition activists across the country to thwart protests against US President Mr George W Bushs visit.

Mr Khan was detained at his home here in the early hours as he was preparing to take out a march from Rawalpindi to Islamabad, said leaders of his Tehrik-e-Insaf party. Besides Mr Khan, 26 of his associates were also taken into preventive custody by authorities. Police used batons to disperse party activists who gathered in central Rawalpindi shouting slogans like Killer Bush go back. Some of the party cadres were also arrested.

Mr Khan, who had been detained last week also for attempting a similar rally in Lahore, said that his house arrest was just to appease Mr Bush.

Opposition parties had pledged to observe Black Day and take out demonstrations to protest the American leaders visit. To prevent any major rallies, police detained from across the country some 350 activists of the Islamic alliance Muttahida Majlis-e Amal (MMA) and opposition parties including some local leaders. mR Hanif Abbasi of MMA was detained at his home in Rawalpindi, while the alliances leader Qazi Hussain Ahmed, detained a few days ago, remained in house arrest in Lahore. Despite the crackdown, around 500 protestors gathered in the eastern city of Multan and took out a peaceful rally, while nearly 50 Islamists held a march in Lahore. Police blocked a key bridge to prevent any protestors from entering Islamabad from the northwest, which is dominated by Islamist parties. School comes to Laura ISLAMABAD, March 4. When American first lady mS **Laura Bush** wants to visit school children, she usually goes to a classroom. But not in Pakistan. Because of security concerns, the children had to come to Ms Bush on today when she wanted to see how US aid was being spent in Pakistani schools. A class of 22 fourth graders met her at the fortress-like US embassy, where they tried to recreate their classroom atmosphere. The American First Lady, a former librarian and teacher, beamed as the lesson ended with a class photograph.

New Kerala

March 5, 2006

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Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette (Indiana)

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Women of Mexico, Peru focus of museum exhibit

BYLINE: Associated Press

WASHINGTON Archaeological finds from Mexico and Peru show that, long before Europeans arrived, women served as warriors, governors and priestesses.

An exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery includes little pottery jugs and massive stone images portraying women in a variety of roles in addition to traditional homemakers and caregivers.

"Women were not only daughters, wives, mothers and grandmothers, but also healers, midwives, scribes, artists, poets, priestesses, warriors, governors and even goddesses in pre-Columbian society," said Judy Larson, director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

There's Xochiquetzal, a Mexican goddess of love and beauty, modeled in clay with an elaborate headdress and flowers in both hands.

She may not look seductive by western standards, but she's more endearing than a stone image, half life-size, of another Mexican goddess Cihuateteo with staring eyes and ferocious teeth. Cihuateteo lurked at crossroads by night and caused illness.

The Moche people of northern Peru, whose tombs are among the most recently excavated, had an ugly goddess of their own, a moon goddess with a face like a skull who presided over the capture and sacrifice of human prisoners.

From Peru also comes a ceramic pitcher in the form of a central figure with a scepter, surrounded by seven women, and another of a long-haired young woman holding a baby.

Organized by the wives of the presidents of the two Latin American countries, the exhibition was promoted in Washington by first lady **Laura Bush**, who wrote in a foreword to the catalog that the objects in the show would inform Americans and visitors about women in the ancient Americas.

Of almost 400 objects in the exhibit, some go back as far as 4,000 years, comparable in age with civilizations in Egypt or Iraq. When Spanish conquerors followed Columbus in the 1500s, those in Mexico met mostly Aztec people, and the conquerors of Peru met the Incas.

There had been other peoples before them, who had been absorbed by the ruling groups of the time or had disappeared entirely. Descendants of some, such as the Mayas of Mexico, can still be identified by languages and customs today.

The exhibit will be on view at the National Museum of Women in the Arts until May 22.

Hindustan Times

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Bush leaves Pak after a day-long visit

BYLINE: Hindustan Times

Rawalpindi, March 5 -- US President George W Bush left Pakistan on Saturday night for his home country after a 26-hour visit during which he held talks with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on wide ranging issues related to terrorism, India-Pak peace process and improvement of UP-Pak relations.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid M Kasuri reportedly saw him off at the Chaklala Defence Airbase in Rawalpindi.

Before his departure, Bush attended a banquet hosted by Musharraf where he praised the courage displayed by the Pakistan leader in fighting terrorism.

Bush had arrived in Islamabad on Friday night after a three-day visit to India and held a three-hour-long meeting with Musharraf on Saturday. He visited the country despite a suicide bomb attack in which an American Consulate official was killed in Karachi on March 2.

In coordination with US security officials, the Pakistani authorities had made elaborate security arrangements for the US President and First Lady **Laura Bush**, especially in the wake of the recent twin bomb blasts in front of the US consulate in Karachi.

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Chicago Sun Times

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: House Republican leaders leaving Bush to sink or swim on Dubai ports deal

BYLINE: Robert Novak

In a closed-door meeting of the top House Republican leadership Tuesday, the consensus was that President Bush had gotten himself in deep trouble on the Dubai ports management deal, and he was on his own to try to save it.

Rep. Tom Reynolds was particularly adamant in separating House Republicans from presidential wreckage on the ports affair. As chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, Reynolds is responsible for election of enough Republican candidates to retain control of the House.

A footnote: Treasury Secretary John Snow was on the phone last week asking for advice on how to solve the Dubai problem from senior Republican members of Congress who had not come out publicly against the ports deal.

PRO-BUSINESS NANCY

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, usually identified as a San Francisco liberal, has moved to the right of President Bush and the Republicans in proposing to relieve the Sarbanes-Oxley regulatory legislation's financial drag on corporations.

Bush and Pelosi are each pushing a "competitiveness agenda," but only the Democrat's plan addresses Sarbanes-Oxley, the hurriedly drafted 2002 act intended to weed out corporate corruption. Pelosi is proposing "specifically tailored guidelines" to make sure that Sarbanes-Oxley requirements are "not overly burdensome" on small companies.

Bush's "competitiveness agenda" does not mention Sarbanes-Oxley, reflecting the administration's negative response to pleas from business for regulatory relief. Rep. Michael Oxley (R-Ohio), the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee who retires from Congress at the end of this year, has opposed any change in the statute that bears his name.

SPECTER'S SUPPORT

The pro-abortion rights Republican Majority for Choice, running ads in Pennsylvania newspapers seeking a Republican primary candidate against anti-abortion Sen. Rick Santorum, includes the state's other GOP senator, Arlen Specter, on its advisory panel.

The ad does not mention Santorum by name, but there is no question of the target when it attacks "candidates who claim to be Republicans but instead use the party to further their own personal or religious agenda." In requesting "real Republican" Senate candidates, the RMC attacks the GOP's "drift toward extremism." The deadline for a candidate to file is March 7.

Specter, a pro-choice Republican, promised to support Santorum's re-election campaign this

year. In 2004, Santorum endangered his own political base by supporting Specter in the Republican primary against a serious conservative challenger. Specter told this column that his "advice was neither solicited nor given on the ad" and that re-electing Santorum remains his top priority for 2006.

GOP LADIES AID

While their husbands work on lobbyist reform, wives of Republican members of Congress are soliciting corporate representatives in Washington for big bucks. The lure is getting a photo with **Laura Bush** at the 98-year-old Congressional Club's April 27 luncheon.

A letter faxed to major Republican contributors cites a \$5,000 price for two lunch tickets, plus a photo opportunity with the first lady and a listing of the company's name in the event program. Twelve such tickets can be purchased for the bargain price of \$50,000.

Although political contributions are not tax deductible, the letter suggests the contribution "may be treated as an advertising or business expense," and therefore could be written off.

DELAY'S DOUGH

In his struggle for election to a 12th term in his Houston district, former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay is spending heavily to identify his voters, much as the Bush-Cheney campaign did in 2004.

The political world was shocked when the latest filings showed that DeLay and his Democratic opponent, former Rep. Nick Lampson, had about the same amount of money in cash on hand (just over \$1 million). However, DeLay already has poured about \$1.5 million into the district, outspending Lampson by better than 5-1.

If DeLay was spending all that money to raise a net \$1 million, it would be cause for his concern. But he is using the money to identify all of his November voters at this early stage, which may be unprecedented for a House race.

Business Recorder

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Laura Stresses Skill Training for Teachers

United States First Lady **Laura Bush** on Saturday stressed the need for promotion of education in Pakistan, with special focus on advanced skill training for teachers.

"Education is an issue of concern world-wide, and we (US) want Pakistan to shift from simple qualifications to advanced methodology in the educational field. This can help people to lead life with success," she said in a roundtable talk with the representatives of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), Federal Directorate of Education, Children Resource International (CRI) and US Agency for International Development (USAID) at US Embassy here.

Laura Bush said the US and Pakistan were partners in education, as the former was running several literacy projects under the umbrella of USAID and Unesco in the country.

She emphasised on the direct involvement of parents and teachers in the educational activities of a child, and said, "Children need parents and teachers to help them prepare for success in school and in life. Once in classrooms, our children deserve excellent teachers and high-quality education."

Being a graduate of Education and a former public school teacher, Laura said she believed teachers' training was a must to update them with advanced methodology.

She said President Bush's commitment for the promotion of education continued from the time he was the governor of Texas and played an active role on focussing research on teaching methodology.

Unesco Regional Director General Jorge Sequeira briefing the US first lady said Pakistan was lagging behind in regional educational perspective with 48.7 percent literacy rate as compared to Sri Lanka with 90.4 percent and India 61 percent.

He said in Pakistan there was a need to overcome educational disparity, as the ratio of child literacy was 58 percent, while focus was being laid on ensuring that all boys and girls completed their primary level by year 2015.

Federal Directorate of Education Director General, Brigadier Maqsood-ul-Hassan (Retd), said the government was successfully carrying out American 'Interactive child-centred methodology' through CRI in its 150 schools in Islamabad.

Under the project, specialised courses for teachers were being carried out besides introducing interactive methodology in 40 universities in the country, he added.

CRI Chief Executive Mehnaz Aziz said the aim of the project was to link the youth with global reality through advanced educational means, and added that more than 25,000 children in ICT,

Rawalpindi district and Karachi were benefiting from the change brought about in classroom environment.

Later, the US first lady distributed gifts among the group of school children, which amused her by presenting self-created tales in a playful manner.

Agence France Presse -- English

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Bush returns to US after South Asian tour

US President George W. Bush returned to the US capital early Sunday after wrapping up a landmark tour of South Asia, during which he visited Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.

Air Force One carrying the president, First Lady **Laura Bush** and members of the US delegation landed at Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Maryland at 4:50 am (0950 GMT).

On Saturday, Bush reassured Americans that broader ties with India, Pakistan and Afghanistan would strengthen US national security.

"By working with these leaders and the people of these three nations, we're seizing the opportunities this new century offers and helping to lay the foundations of peace and prosperity for generations to come," the president said in his weekly radio address.

Before leaving Islamabad, the US president reaffirmed what he called a broad and lasting strategic partnership between the United States and Pakistan forged after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

The Washington Post

March 6, 2006

HEADLINE: Handshakes For the Hallway

BYLINE: Al Kamen

Keeping the art modern . . . President Bush's recent visit to India, Afghanistan and Pakistan doubtless will provide an infusion of spectacular pictures for the George W. Bush Corridor at the State Department.

The busy hallway leads from the diplomatic entrance to the employee cafeteria. For many years it housed an exhibit of two dozen great moments in diplomatic history -- negotiations with American Indian tribes, Woodrow Wilson at Versailles, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill signing the Atlantic Charter and such.

A couple of years ago that exhibit was moved to a less-traveled corridor and replaced with 21 large photos of Bush as diplomat. There were several shots with first lady **Laura Bush**, one of just **Laura Bush** and a couple of former secretary of state Colin L. Powell with Bush.

But history marches on. Now the photos of Powell have been replaced with a couple of shots of Bush with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and photos of **Laura Bush** at the pyramids in Egypt, where she had praised President Hosni Mubarak's decision to hold multicandidate presidential elections -- in words that went well beyond the lukewarm State Department talking points.

Rice's pictures naturally replaced Powell's along the seventh-floor corridor outside the secretary's office.

Before we forget . . . NBC News reported last week that Vice President Cheney's former chief of staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby had hired memory-loss expert and Harvard psychology professor Daniel L. Schacter to help with his legal defense against charges that he lied about outing former CIA operative Valerie Plame.

Part of Libby's defense is expected to be that he did not intentionally mislead investigators, but rather that, given all the important national security matters he dealt with, it's understandable he could forget minor stuff such as "snippets of conversations" about Plame.

Schacter's books, including "Searching for Memory: The Brain, the Mind, and the Past," show how memory can be a tricky thing, and how if you're distracted when something happens, it's harder to remember details.

This comports with a recent study by that guy . . . the tall guy, what's-his-name, you know, with the blond wife who worked on the Hill . . .

The Agency for International Development's Office of Acquisition and Assistance is encouraging its host country employees -- such as Peruvians working for AID in Peru -- to apply for jobs in Iraq.

"Need fast cash?" the in-house e-mail asks. "If you crave professional challenges and your family will let you . . . [then] spend a year in Iraq."

The ad lists many benefits, such as 25 percent danger pay and "nowhere to spend money here in the international zone." It also gives you "a chance to clean up other people's messes, and create some of your own."

There are "personal and social" advantages to working in Iraq, the e-mail notes. "Tired of being called a bore? Acquire some new hobbies like salsa, bridge and belly dancing." What's more, you can "get buff" at the "excellent gym facilities, and a large swimming pool complex adjacent to the mission." This is in addition to maid service, "completely furnished two-room houses . . . [and] a queen-sized bed."

And you can "fulfill your childhood dream of riding in a helicopter!" (Assuming you don't get hit by ground fire.) The jocular tone may have unsettled some folks, however, since those being encouraged to apply could be from places in Africa, such as Senegal, Malawi, Benin and Zimbabwe, where local employees may be let go as a result of budget cutbacks to pay for efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The light tone was intended to "generate a little interest" in the openings, an AID official said. "There are no net job losses," he added, though jobs are "shifting based on reprogramming needs."

Folks on the Mexican border better keep a close eye on the kids and make sure they don't dig up the back yard in the wrong places: They could be looking at 20 years in the slammer under a bill introduced last week by Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.).

The bill criminalizes construction or financing of border tunnels -- typically used to smuggle drugs or people, and potentially weapons and terrorists into the country. There are laws against doing bad things with the tunnels, the duo says, but no law against just digging one.

And don't think you'll be able to get away with letting the neighbors come on your property and build one. The bill would send you away for 10 years for doing that.

The New York Times

March 6, 2006

HEADLINE: Trip Abroad Gives Bush a Respite From Domestic Woes

BYLINE: Elisabeth Bumiller

There were no questions about the Dubai ports deal. There was little talk of Vice President Dick Cheney's accidental shooting of a fellow quail hunter. The words "Iraq" and "Katrina" hardly came up at all.

Through five days and three countries last week, George W. Bush got a little of what beleaguered American presidents always look for on foreign trips: a chance to set aside problems at home.

True, the trip had troubles of its own. Anti-Bush riots led by Islamists exploded from Hyderabad north to Kashmir, Islamabad was in lockdown because of the risks of bringing the president into Osama bin Laden's backyard, and an American diplomat died in a suicide bombing in Karachi. But compared with Mr. Bush's most recent trips to South America and Asia -- one dominated by demonstrations led by President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and the other by problems in Iraq -- the president's visit to the subcontinent was a relief for him.

India, where Mr. Bush spent two packed days, embraced him in a way the president had not experienced in a long time.

"He felt very warmly received," Andrew H. Card Jr., the White House chief of staff, said from the lawn of Islamabad's presidential palace on Saturday morning. The night before, in an open-air speech in New Delhi at a 16th-century fort, Mr. Bush said he had been "dazzled" by the spectacle of "this vibrant and exciting land."

This is not to say that all of India adores Mr. Bush, and its Muslim minority in particular is furious about Iraq. But over all, the United States is highly popular in India and Mr. Bush bestowed on the nation such an astonishing gift -- last week's nuclear deal -- that Indians greeted him like an American maharajah. Even before his arrival, a survey in the Indian newsweekly Outlook found that two-thirds of Indians "strongly" or "somewhat" regarded Mr. Bush as a friend of the country.

Mr. Bush, who can look miserable on foreign trips, often appeared moved and delighted as he raced around India. "I have been received in many capitals, but I have never seen a reception as grand as the one we just received," Mr. Bush said after a majestic arrival ceremony with horses and honor guards at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the 340-room pink and cream sandstone mansion built for the last of the British viceroys.

Rashtrapati Bhavan, now the home of the president of India, evokes all the romance and hubris of the dying Raj. But as evocative as the ceremony was for Mr. Bush, aides said he was more captivated by the India of the present -- a functioning democracy of a billion people, a counterweight to China, a huge market for American goods. One of the president's favorite stops on the trip, they said, was a meeting with entrepreneurs in Hyderabad, the booming high-tech

city.

"Yesterday I met with some Indian C.E.O.'s and American C.E.O.'s, kind of the old folks," Mr. Bush told a dozen men and women in their 20's and 30's at Hyderabad's Indian School of Business. "Today I'm meeting with the C.E.O.'s of tomorrow, the people that are going to help drive this great engine of economic prosperity for India -- for the good of the world, is how I view it."

India cooperated with exquisite spring weather -- it was only in the 80's in New Delhi, where lush gardens burst with dahlias and bougainvillea -- and huge headlines. "It's a Deal -- A Very Big Deal," screamed The Times of India across the front page on Friday morning, over a picture of Mr. Bush with his arm around the shoulders of the Indian prime minister, Manmohan Singh. The two had just announced the pact that would give India help with nuclear power for its energy needs while allowing it to continue to develop nuclear weapons -- a tough sell in a skeptical United States Congress, Mr. Bush acknowledged.

Indians made light of Mr. Bush's one faux pas, skipping a three-hour trip from New Delhi to the Taj Mahal, the tomb that a heartsick Mogul emperor built for his wife and still considered the world's greatest monument to love. "I am truly sorry that the president is not taking you to Taj Mahal this time," Mr. Singh said to **Laura Bush** as he toasted the first couple at a lunch on Thursday. "I hope he will be more chivalrous the next time you are here."

Mr. Bush bookended his trip to India with a surprise four-hour stop in Afghanistan and a 24-hour stay in Pakistan, where Mr. bin Laden is believed to be hiding in the remote tribal areas near the Afghan border. But Mr. Bush, the first American president to visit Afghanistan since President Eisenhower in 1959, and the first to visit Pakistan since President Clinton in 2000, bounced around Mr. bin Laden's terrain with defiance.

Unlike Mr. Clinton, who slipped into Islamabad for six hours on an unmarked military jet, Mr. Bush arrived with a roar on Air Force One. (Although Air Force One, the most recognizable 747 in the world, landed with its running lights off and shades drawn, making it a more difficult target for any ground-launched missile.) Mr. Bush also stayed the night at the fortress-like American ambassador's residence and took time out the next day to take a few swings with a cricket bat with students from the Islamabad College for Boys.

"Terrorists and killers are not going to prevent me from going to Pakistan," he had vowed in New Delhi.

Mr. Bush got home at 5 a.m. on Sunday and returned to his normal life, going to church later that morning, then taking a bicycle ride. On Monday, he would face Iraq, the ports deal, fallout from Katrina, rebellious Republicans, approval ratings in the mid-30's -- and a Mr. bin Laden still on the loose.

His trip to the subcontinent was over.

The Rutherford Institute

March 6, 2005

HEADLINE: Women, Rape and Death Penalty in Iran

BYLINE: John W. Whitehead

On January 6, 2006, the Republic of Iran sentenced a young woman to death for the so-called crime of defending herself against three male attackers. The case, that of 18-year-old Nazanin, presents the United States with an opportunity to take a stand for basic equality and women's rights.

In March 2005, Nazanin, who was 17 at the time, and her niece were attacked by three men while walking in a park in Tehran, the capital of Iran. When the men began throwing stones at them, the girls were abandoned by their boyfriends, who left them alone to defend themselves from the brutality. Out of fear and panic, the girls did the only thing they knew to do—try to run away. Yet despite their desperate attempts to escape the grasps of the three ill-minded men, the young girls were caught, thrown to the ground and forced upon by the strangers attempting to rape them. Acting on instinct, Nazanin tried to protect herself and her niece. Drawing a knife she kept hidden beneath her clothing to guard against this type of attack, Nazanin stabbed one of the men in the chest as he was forcing himself upon her. Although Nazanin persists that she merely intended to use the knife to force the man off her, the stabbing resulted in the rapist's death. Nazanin was subsequently arrested, charged and convicted for the death of the rapist and is sentenced to die by hanging.

Nazanin's plight is not uncommon in Iran, which has been criticized for its treatment of women and its use of capital punishment in a country where more women are reportedly executed per year than in any other country. Since 1979, when the Ayatollah Khomeini assumed power, Iran's penal system has been marked by so-called "Revolutionary Law," which is derived from Islamic and Sharia law. It is particularly brutal in its treatment of women, especially those who are found guilty of breaking the law and condemned to die for their purported crimes. And according to an Iranian doctor who has witnessed many state executions of women, women and girls are commonly raped by guards prior to their execution. Ostensibly, this practice ensures that the woman is not a virgin when she dies, thus preventing her from entering paradise.

Death sentences imposed on women in Iran are typically carried out by hanging or stoning. When a sentence calls for death by stoning, the woman is buried up to the shoulders, covered over the head and beaten to death with stones of a size dictated by Iranian law. Death by hanging typically involves either the use of a hydraulic crane or a low platform to ensure a slower, more painful death. A strong thin rope or steel cable in the form of a noose is placed around the neck to crush the larynx, inflicting as much pain as possible and prolonging the moment of death.

Such a brutal death is what awaits Nazanin unless the United States, the United Nations and other international agencies exercise their moral leadership and demand that the Iranian government grant her clemency. Indeed, the United States should lead the way in raising an outcry over Iran's inhumane treatment of Nazanin. In fact, America has long been a champion of human rights in word, if not always in deed. And although America's reputation as a defender of human rights has been tarnished by allegations of prisoner abuse at Guantanamo and Abu

Ghraib, Nazanin's plight presents the Bush Administration with an opportunity to stand by its much-avowed commitment to human rights. This is one important reason why at least limited diplomatic ties with despotic regimes should be maintained by the U.S. Otherwise, it renders the U.S. helpless to do anything in this kind of situation.

Just as international pressure succeeded in granting Sufiyatu Huseini clemency from an unjust death sentence, so the international community—led by the U.S.—must take on the burden of advocating Nazanin's cause. Huseini was charged by Nigerian officials with the crime of adultery after having been raped and was sentenced to death by stoning. However, as a result of international pressure and several months of negotiations, she was granted clemency.

As a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Iran must be challenged to stand by its commitments to respect the fundamental human rights of women and to treat all persons deprived of their liberty "with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person."

First Lady **Laura Bush** has been vocal in speaking out against the severe repression and brutality of women in Afghanistan. She is to be commended for admonishing our nation to take a stand. As **Mrs. Bush** stated, "Civilized people throughout the world are speaking out in horror—not only because our hearts break for the women and children in Afghanistan, but also because in Afghanistan we see the world the terrorists would like to impose on the rest of us. All of us have an obligation to speak out. We may come from different backgrounds and faiths—but parents the world over love our children. We respect our mothers, our sisters and daughters. Fighting brutality against women and children is not the expression of a specific culture; it is the acceptance of our common humanity—a commitment shared by people of good will on every continent."

However, it's time to move past the rhetoric. Indeed, if people like **Laura Bush** are really sincere about what they're saying about women's rights around the world, then it is incumbent on them to act and to persuade her husband the president, a world leader, to act affirmatively in this situation.

What this means is that in order to truly end the horror being enacted against women in Iran, particularly on young Nazanin, it is incumbent upon the U.S. to act now. To remain silent about this horrific incident amounts to turning a blind eye and it is a travesty of justice that renders meaningless anything the United States has to say about women's rights.

Mrs. Bush's Press Photos
India- March 2, 2006



REUTERS 

Tue Feb 28, 1:52 PM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush wave from Air Force One as they depart Andrews Air Force base near Washington February 28, 2006. Bush is



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 2:03 PM ET

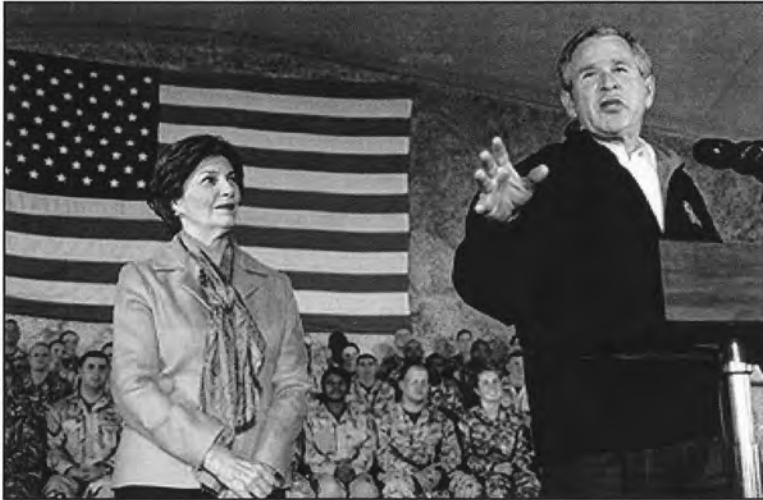
Indian President Abdul Kalam (R) shakes hands with U.S. First Lady Laura Bush as U.S. President George W. Bush (C) watches before their meeting in New Delhi March 2, 2006. India and the United States sealed a landmark civilian nuclear co-operation pact on Thursday, the centrepiece of President George W. Bush's first visit to the world's largest democracy. REUTERS/B Mathur



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 1:51 PM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (R) and First Lady Laura Bush walk before their meeting with Indian President Abdul Kalam in New Delhi March 2, 2006. India and the United States sealed a landmark civilian nuclear co-operation pact on Thursday, the centrepiece of President George W. Bush's first visit to the world's largest democracy. REUTERS/B Mathur



Thu Mar 2, 1:04 PM ET

US President George W. Bush (R) speaks to US troops at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan as First Lady Laura Bush looks on. Bush regularly reminds Americans that he is the "commander in chief", but nobody expects to see him with US troops in Iraq any time soon (AFP/Mandel Ngan)



Thu Mar 2, 11:34 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush (C) meets the cast of the Indian version of the children's television show Sesame Street, called 'Galli Galli Sim Sim', at their film studio on the outskirts of New Delhi March 2, 2006. From left are the characters Boombah, Chamki, Googli, and Aanchoo. On the right is Nafisa Ali, the chairperson of the Children's Film Society of India. REUTERS/Eagle Studios/Handout



REUTERS

Thu Mar 2, 11:17 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (front R) and First Lady Laura Bush (front C) join President of India Abdul Kalam in a reception line at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi March 2, 2006. It is Bush's first visit to the country. REUTERS/Jim Young



AFP

Thu Mar 2, 11:02 AM ET

US President George W. Bush (L) and First Lady Laura Bush step off Air Force One in New Delhi. The United States and India have sealed a civilian nuclear deal, the leaders of the two countries announced following talks in the Indian capital (AFP/Mandel Ngan)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:58 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush, right, laughs while standing in a receiving line with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, second left, and first lady Laura Bush, center, at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:57 AM ET

President Bush, center, looks towards U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during a receiving line at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is at far left and first lady Laura Bush is second left. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:52 AM ET

George Bush, right, first lady Laura Bush, center, and Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam stand for the United States national anthem at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:46 AM ET

President Bush, right, and first lady Laura Bush receive drinks after they finished the receiving line with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 10:27 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush (R) and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are pictured prior to a state dinner hosted by Indian President Abdul Kalam for U.S. President George W. Bush at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) in New Delhi March 2, 2006. REUTERS/Jason Reed



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 10:24 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (C) is greeted by Indian President Abdul Kalam as First Lady Laura Bush (L) looks on at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) prior to a black tie State Dinner in New Delhi March 2, 2006. At left behind is U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. REUTERS/Jason Reed



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:18 AM ET

First lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, smile as they arrive to greet Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the Presidential Palace prior to a State Dinner in Delhi, India Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:18 AM ET

President Bush and first lady Laura Bush meet with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, right, before a state dinner at the Presidential Palace in Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:46 AM ET

President Bush, right, and first lady Laura Bush receive drinks after they finished the receiving line with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:26 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (C) applauds as disabled Indian children play a game with Indian and U.S. flags at a classroom in the Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:23 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (C) meets a group of Indian child performers at the Prayas Institute in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The facility cares and educates neglected, abused, and homeless children.

REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:14 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (R) meets cast members of the Indian version of the children's TV show Sesame Street, called 'Galli Galli Sim Sim', inside a model of a mechanic shop at their film studio on the outskirts of New Delhi March 2, 2006. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:14 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush meets the cast of the Indian version of the children's TV show Sesame Street, called 'Galli Galli Sim Sim', at their film studio on the outskirts of New Delhi March 2, 2006. Standing with Bush are characters (L-R) Boombah, Chamki, and Googli. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:11 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush, center, sits with disabled Indian children as they work on arts and crafts at Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:08 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (2nd R) and three nuns applaud after a singing performance by disabled Indian children at Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:07 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush thanks a young disabled Indian girl as she visits the Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS

Thu Mar 2, 9:03 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (R, sitting) listens as disabled Indian children sing to her at Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 5:34 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush, third right, and first lady Laura Bush, right, are greeted by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, fourth right, shaking hands, and his wife Renu Chatterjee, fifth right, and President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, second right, at an arrival ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, India Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 4:05 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush is hugged by Indian children at the Prayas Institute in New Delhi March 2, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 3:43 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (R) and first lady Laura Bush stand after placing a wreath at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/B Mathur



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 3:42 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush uses a traditional Indian greeting to say hello to Indian school children at the Prayas Institute in New Delhi Thursday, March 2, 2006. The facility cares and educates neglected, abused, and homeless children. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder, POOL)



REUTERS

Thu Mar 2, 3:40 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (L) and First Lady Laura Bush throw flower petals during a ceremony in honor of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in New Delhi, India March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/Jim Young



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 3:04 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (2nd L) and first Lady Laura Bush stand during their visit to the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/B Mathur



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 2:29 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (R) and first Lady Laura Bush (C) walk at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/B Mathur



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 2:18 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (2nd R) and first Lady Laura Bush (3rd R) stand after placing a wreath at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/B Mathur



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 1:56 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (C) and first lady Laura Bush (2nd L) attend a wreath laying ceremony in honor of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. REUTERS/Jim Young



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 1:16 AM ET

U.S President George W. Bush (R) shakes hands with Indian President Indian President Abdul Kalam at an arrival ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, (Presidential Palace) in New Delhi, March 2, 2006. Alongside President Bush is first lady Laura Bush (2nd R), India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his wife Guesharan Kaur (L). REUTERS/Jason Reed



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 1:07 AM ET

US first lady Laura Bush waves to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh whose image is reflected in the car during the welcome ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi, March 2, 2006. REUTERS/Kamal Kishore



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 12:37 PM ET

US President George W. Bush, left, and his wife Laura Bush come out of Air Force One after Bush's arrival in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in India on Wednesday as talks on a landmark U.S.-Indian nuclear pact were down to the wire and tens of thousands of Indians rallied in New Delhi to protest his visit. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)



REUTERS

Wed Mar 1, 11:21 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush (L) talks with Afghan First Lady Zeenat Karzai (2nd L) during a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Kabul March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush began his first visit to South Asia on Wednesday with a surprise stop over in Afghanistan, where thousands of American troops are still engaged in hunting down the architects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. REUTERS/Shah Marai/Pool



REUTERS 

Wed Mar 1, 11:13 AM ET

First Lady Laura Bush meets with Afghan First Lady Zeenat Karzai at the Presidential Palace in Kabul March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush began his first visit to South Asia on Wednesday with a surprise stop over in Afghanistan, where thousands of American troops are still engaged in hunting down the architects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. REUTERS/Shah Marai/Pool



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 10:59 AM ET

US President George W. Bush, left, waves to the media, as he and his wife Laura Bush come out of Air Force One after their arrival in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in India on Wednesday as talks on a landmark U.S.-Indian nuclear pact were down to the wire and tens of thousands of Indians rallied in New Delhi to protest his visit. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 10:21 AM ET

US President George W. Bush, left, his wife Laura Bush, second left, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, right, and his wife Gurcharan Kaur look on after Bush's arrival in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in India on Wednesday as talks on a landmark U.S.-Indian nuclear pact were down to the wire and tens of thousands of Indians rallied in New Delhi to protest his visit. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 10:15 AM ET

US President George W. Bush, left, and his wife Laura Bush hold flowers after their arrival in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in India on Wednesday as talks on a landmark U.S.-Indian nuclear pact were down to the wire and tens of thousands of Indians rallied in New Delhi to protest his visit. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)



REUTERS

Wed Mar 1, 10:07 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush addresses troops as first lady Laura Bush looks on during a surprise stopover at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, March 1, 2006. Bush began his first visit to South Asia on Wednesday with a surprise stop over in Afghanistan, where thousands of American troops are still engaged in hunting down the architects of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

REUTERS/Jim Young



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 10:04 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush, second left, cuts a ribbon as he officially opens the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan Wednesday, March 1, 2006. Standing left to right: first lady Laura Bush, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Ambassador Ron Neumann, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Bush made a surprise visit to Afghanistan ahead of his trip to India and Pakistan. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



REUTERS 

Wed Mar 1, 8:06 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (L), Afghan President Hamid Karzai (2nd L), U.S. first lady Laura Bush (C), Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (2nd R) and U.S. ambassador for Afghanistan Ronald E. Neumann (R) attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan March 1, 2006. Bush began his first visit to South Asia on Wednesday with a surprise stop over in Afghanistan, where thousands of American troops are still engaged in hunting down the architects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

REUTERS/Omar Sobhani



REUTERS 

Wed Mar 1, 7:59 AM ET

From (L-R), U.S. first lady Laura Bush, U.S. President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.S. ambassador for Afghanistan Ronald E. Neumann and Afghan President Hamid Karzai attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan March 1, 2006. President Bush made a surprise visit to Afghanistan on Wednesday to see for the first time the

emerging democracy that replaced the Taliban ousted in 2001 after September 11. REUTERS/Omar Sobhani



REUTERS 

Wed Mar 1, 6:39 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (2nd R) and first lady Laura Bush meet troops during a stopover in Kabul, Afghanistan, March 1, 2006. Bush made a surprise visit to Afghanistan on Wednesday to see for the first time the emerging democracy that replaced the Taliban ousted in 2001 after September 11.

REUTERS/Jim Young



REUTERS 

Tue Feb 28, 1:52 PM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush wave from Air Force One as they depart Andrews Air Force base near Washington February 28, 2006. Bush is



