

DAILY BULLETIN

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BUSH CALLS U.N. VOTE “VERY IMPORTANT” FOR MIDDLE EAST

President discusses Iraq, North Korea with Japan’s Koizumi

Speaking shortly before the U.N. Security Council voted on the matter, President Bush said he was confident the council would pass a resolution endorsing the international community’s efforts to rebuild Iraq into a peaceful, free and democratic country.

“I’m delighted that we’re about to get a Security Council resolution [on Iraq]”, the president said June 8 before meeting with Japan’s Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the G8 Summit at Sea Island, Georgia. “I think this is a very important moment on making sure that our objective is achieved.”

“These nations understand that a free Iraq will serve as a catalyst for change in the broader Middle East,” Bush said, adding that the key to long-term security in Iraq lies in the training of an Iraqi security force.

The president noted that he would also discuss North Korea with Prime Minister Koizumi.

The prime minister said, “President Bush has strongly supported the Japanese policy and we would like Japan and the U.S. would like to coordinate together, consult together on the issue of North Korea in order to come up with a peace in Korean peninsula.”

Following is the transcript of Bush's remarks

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
June 8, 2004

Remarks By The President And Prime Minister Koizumi
Of Japan In Photo Opportunity
Dunbar House Sea Island, Georgia
12:31 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: It's my honor to welcome my friend and a strong leader, the Prime Minister of Japan, to Sea Island, Georgia. I've really been looking forward to this lunch because every time I meet with the Prime Minister, we have a constructive and important dialogue.

The first thing, of course, I will do is congratulate him on the fact that the Japanese economy is improving under his leadership. We will talk about security issues, we'll talk about our mutual desire to fight terror, we will talk about North Korea, we will talk about Iraq and, in doing so, I know I'm talking with a leader I can trust and a leader who has got good, sound judgment.

Mr. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER: (As interpreted.) First of all, I would like to express my condolences to the pass away of President Reagan. I would like to pay respect to his achievement, especially in numerous achievements, especially in strengthening our Japan-U.S. bilateral relationship.

Today, I was very much looking forward to meeting with President Bush in order to discuss Iraq, North Korea, and those issues from a viewpoint of Japan-U.S. alliance in the global context. As the international community has to cooperate in order to reconstruct Iraq, I would like to pay respect to his strong leadership of President Bush in meeting this international coordination.

And also on the North Korea issue, President Bush has strongly supported the Japanese policy and we would like Japan and the U.S. would like to coordinate together, consult together in the issue of North Korea in order to come up with a peace in Korean Peninsula.

And in this difficult even in the difficult and hard conditions, President Bush has shown his strong determination and commitment and he is a man of determination, so with President Bush we would like to maintain our

Japan-U.S. cooperation in order to come up with peace and stability in the world.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. A couple of questions. Tom.

Question: Mr. President, originally you had hoped that a U.N. resolution on Iraq would lead to more troops. Now, you're on the verge of getting that U.N. resolution and, yet, we haven't heard much about more troops? In fact, France, Germany, Russia and Canada have said they won't send troops any under circumstance. Have you pretty much given up on getting these allies to send troops, or is there still hope that you can persuade them?

THE PRESIDENT: First, I'm delighted that we're about to get a Security Council resolution. There were some who said we'd never get one, and it looks like if things go well, it will be a unanimous vote, thereby saying to the world that members of the Security Council are interested in working together to make sure that Iraq is free and peaceful and democratic. I think this is a very important moment on making sure that our objective is achieved.

These nations understand that a free Iraq will serve as a catalyst for change in the broader Middle East, which is an important part of winning the war on terror. I expect nations to contribute as they see fit. But, of course, the key to long-term security in Iraq is for all of us to work together to train Iraqi troops to handle their own security measures. And that's precisely what we are doing on the ground, and we will work with other nations to do, as well.

Q: Mr. President, there are a lot of remembrances about Ronald Reagan this week. What lessons have you learned from the presidency of Ronald Reagan? And have you modeled your political style after him at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Ronald Reagan will go down in history as a great American President because he had a core set of principles from which he would not deviate. He understood that a leader is a person who sets clear goals and makes decisions based upon principles that are etched in his soul? and our nation will miss him. I had the honor of speaking to Mrs. Reagan from Paris, France, and expressed Laura and my condolences to her and her family; and the nation will be doing so, as well, on Friday.

Thank you. Thank you, all.

NEGROPONTE CALLS U.N. RESOLUTION A “MILESTONE” FOR IRAQ

Negroponte's UNSC Remarks on Iraq resolution

Calling the new U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq “an important milestone,” U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Negroponte said June 8 that the resolution “makes clear that Iraq’s sovereignty will be undiluted and that the government of Iraq will have the sovereign authority to request and to decline assistance, including in the security sector.”

The Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution, co-sponsored by the United States, United Kingdom and Romania, that endorses the return of full sovereignty to Iraq and its interim government, sets out the role of the United Nations, and outlines the relationship between the new Iraqi government and the multinational force (MNF) in the country after the end of the occupation by the Coalition Provisional Authority on June 30.

In remarks after the vote, Negroponte said that the unanimous passage of the resolution “is a vivid demonstration of broad international support” for a federal, democratic, pluralist, and unified Iraq in which there is full respect for political and human rights.

The ambassador urged the international community to help the Iraqi people, saying, “international assistance can and should enhance their prospects for success.”

Following is the text of the ambassador’s remarks:

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<http://www.un.int/usa/>

Explanation of Vote by Ambassador John D. Negroponte, U.S. Representative to the United Nations, on Resolution 1546, in the Security Council, June 8, 2004

Thank you, Mr. President.

With today’s vote, we acknowledge an important milestone. By June 30, Iraq will reassert its sovereignty, a step forward on the path towards a democratically

elected government. The unanimous passage of Resolution 1546 is a vivid demonstration of broad international support for - and I quote from the text “a federal, democratic, pluralist and unified Iraq, in which there is full respect for political and human rights.”

Yesterday in this chamber Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi briefed the Council the formation of Iraq’s Interim Government. The Interim Government will pave the way for national elections for a Transitional National Assembly to be held no later than January 2005. Resolution 1546 defines key political tasks in which the United Nations shall play a leading and vital role to support Iraqi efforts.

This resolution makes clear that Iraq’s sovereignty will be undiluted, and that the Government of Iraq will have the sovereign authority to request and to decline assistance, including in the security sector. The Government of Iraq will have the final say on the presence of the multinational force. The resolution also addresses the current security reality, and affirms the security structures and mechanisms warranted at this time. The annexed letters from Prime Minister Allawi and Secretary Powell describe the security partnership that is being put into place between the sovereign Government of Iraq and the multinational force.

Mr. President, the international community now has a renewed opportunity to help the people of Iraq and their sovereign government. Undeterred by Saddam Hussein’s legacy of many years of oppression and war, the Iraqi people are determined to create a new reality. International assistance can and should enhance their prospects for success. The resolution calls on the international community to join those already helping the talented people of Iraq. Member States should not delay in matching advice with concrete assistance - as President Bush has said, “Free Iraq deserves the full support of the international community.”

The constructive dialogue through which this text was developed, which led to the Council’s unanimous vote today, should mark strengthened international resolve to work together for a democratic, secure and prosperous Iraq, and for the lasting and permanent benefit of its people.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

ECONOMIC GROWTH SHOULD OPEN DOOR FOR G8 REFORMS, U.S. SAYS

Leaders also to discuss poverty reduction, trade promotion

The global trend in favor of continued economic growth provides a strategic opportunity for the world's most advanced industrialized nations to embark on politically difficult reforms in the areas of labor, trade liberalization, health care, deficit reduction and pension planning, U.S. officials say.

Briefing reporters June 8 on the opening day of the Group of Eight (G8) summit of industrialized countries in Sea Island, Georgia, senior administration officials said they expected President Bush, as summit host, to discuss with his G8 counterparts ways they can raise and sustain growth in their own economies.

Leaders of the G8 countries -- the United States, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Italy and Russia -- meet annually to discuss major global issues, define common concerns and agree on coordinated courses of action. The G7 is the same group minus Russia.

"A key theme throughout this discussion will be that the strong global economy presents a strategic economic opportunity to tackle difficult reforms," a senior Bush administration official said.

The official cited economic forecasts for 2004 that predict 4.6 percent growth in the United States, 3.1 percent in Japan, and strong growth for the British and Canadian economies as well as for many emerging markets that have struggled in recent years. The exception is the Euro area, where economic growth is expected to lag behind that of the rest of the G8, the official said.

G8 leaders also plan to hold a separate economic session on initiatives designed to harness the forces of the private sector to reduce poverty in developing countries. The session will likely include discussion of ways to facilitate the flow of remittances from workers in developed countries to their homes in the developing world.

An estimated \$100 billion is sent via remittances to developing countries every year, the official said. The money "dwarfs official development assistance" and is thus "a significant source of funding for countries,"

the official added. The task for G8 leaders is to find ways to make it cheaper and easier for workers to send money home and to help recipients of the money use it to promote development in their own countries, the official said.

Another major topic on the G8 agenda is ways to advance negotiations at the World Trade Organization to remove trade barriers worldwide and help extend the current global economic expansion, the official said.

G8 summit briefings are being conducted in Savannah, Georgia, about 130 kilometers from the summit in Sea Island.

U.S., EU APPROACHES TO ANTITRUST ISSUES -- 17 YEARS OUT

Speech by Justice Dept.'s R. Hewitt Pate at Brussels conference

U.S. Assistant Attorney General R. Hewitt Pate spoke at a U.S.-European Union (EU) conference in Brussels, Belgium, June 7, presenting an overview of areas of convergence and divergence in transatlantic approaches to antitrust issues.

Pate focused on developments he thought would likely be of enduring importance in 2021, a point of reference he chose as coinciding with the next appearance in Washington of a swarm of cicadas, whose 17-year life cycle is just now ending in the U.S. capital.

He had special praise for "the impressive and important record of achievements" during the tenure of EU Competition Commissioner Mario Monti, which he described as "unquestionably changes of lasting significance." He specifically noted Monti's efforts to decentralize European antitrust enforcement regimes, which he said have led to improved EU-U.S. coordination in anti-cartel enforcement and merger control and to more transparent and democratic competition policy.

"These changes reflect in their basic direction convergence with the current American system of enforce-

ment,” Pate said. “The important question is to what degree this convergence will prove to be positive - gaining for Europe the benefits of a decentralized system with more private enforcement while avoiding potential hazards.”

The area where Pate sees the greatest divergence between U.S. and EU approaches to antitrust issues involves unilateral conduct, since each side uses different thresholds for determining a company’s dominant position within an industry and characterizes pricing practices in different ways.

“There is broad agreement that we want even monopolists to compete hard by lowering prices, innovating, and making their products more attractive,” he said. “The fundamental problem is that, with respect to unilateral conduct, it is extremely difficult to tell the difference between good, hard competition and anti-competitive conduct.”

Pate said the United States believes that, over time, “a cautious and objective approach” to unilateral conduct will be the goal on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Justice Department official also discussed intellectual property rights issues, competition law as it relates to opening previously state-controlled monopoly markets in Europe, and areas where the United States can learn from the EU’s experience.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”