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BUSH CLOSES G8 SUMMIT EMPHASIZING COMMON GOALS FOR IRAQ, MIDEAST

Says he's confident partners and allies will help lraq as it reconstructs

President Bush does not expect additional NATO troops to be sent to Iraq, but he is confident global partners and allies will help that country in a variety of ways as it reconstructs and moves toward democracy.

"The nations of the G8 are united in our desire to help bring stability and democracy to Iraq," Bush said at a June 10 news conference marking the end of a threeday summit of Group of Eight (G8) leaders.

Bush told reporters he was pleased with the level of unity expressed on a future course for Iraq and that the subject of NATO troops did not present a problem.

"I don't expect more troops from NATO to be offered up. That is an unrealistic expectation," Bush said. He added, however, that NATO might provide training resources if the Iraqi government were to make such a request.

Bush, who met at Sea Island with new Iraqi President Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawer, said he appreciated G8 backing for a new U.N. Security Council resolution expressing international support for the interim government of Iraq.

"The Iraqi people can know that the world stands with them in their quest for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future. And the enemies of freedom in

that nation know that they are opposed by the might and resolve of free nations," Bush said.

The president acknowledged (that Iraq faces a difficult road ahead but made clear that he remains optimistic about the country's future.

"I fully concede ... that I think things are still going to be tough there," Bush said. He said that the planned transfer of sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government will not stop the activities of terrorists, and he acknowledged that the transition to democracy could be a slow and difficult process.

"I understand some in the world say this country can't be free and self-governing. Well, I disagree. I strongly believe it will be free and prosperous. And they need our help, and they'll have our help," Bush said.

The summit at Sea Island, Georgia, of the leaders of G8 countries Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States focused significantly on the situation in the Middle East.

Bush said he was pleased that the G8 nations and Turkey had agreed to support momentum toward greater freedom throughout the broader Middle East and North Africa. As a group, they established the Partnership for Progress and a Common Future, which will work with regional leaders who seek to advance the values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, economic opportunity and social justice, Bush said.

The G8 also approved creation of a Forum for the Future, which will bring together senior government officials from the Middle East and their G8 counterparts along with representatives of business and civil society. The forum will provide a venue for exchanging ideas that can help the nations of the Middle East create jobs, increase access to capital, improve literacy and education, protect human rights, and make progress toward democracy, the president said.

While Iraq and the wider Middle East dominated the summit, the leaders also reached agreements on other issues like training 75,000 new peacekeepers to patrol war-torn countries over the next five years and coordinating efforts to find a vaccine against the AIDS virus.

The G8 agreed to extend for another two years a debt-relief program for the world's poorest nations that had been scheduled to expire at the end of 2004 and to provide for larger amounts of debt forgiveness.

After the summit, Bush and other leaders left for Washington to attend the state funeral of former President Ronald Reagan.

"Ronald Reagan was a great man, historic leader and a national treasure. I'm honored to speak tomorrow at the memorial service on behalf of a grateful nation," Bush told reporters.

U.S. Advises Travelers on Safe, Speedy Entry at Borders

Advisory comes in expectation of millions of foreign visitors

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency is advising foreign visitors to the United States on how best to facilitate their entry into the country. CBP issued the advisories June 10, just as the summer vacation season begins in the northern hemisphere.

In a June 10 press release, CBP Commissioner Robert Bonner said the agency's goal is protecting the nation from terrorists while, at the same time, assisting and supporting the movement of vacationers and trade.

Carrying proper documents and being aware of regulations concerning items prohibited for entry are among the most important traveler tips.

Following is the text of the press release from the CBP:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Know Before You Go-Tips for Visitors to the United
States

Washington, DC- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner today launched a traveler awareness campaign to educate the millions of visitors who will travel to the United States this summer. CBP's priority mission is to keep terrorist and terrorist weapons out of the U.S. while facilitating the flow of trade and travelers. For a speedy and trouble free entry

into the U.S., visitors are reminded to ensure that they have the proper documentation and are well informed on U.S. entry requirements and procedures.

- "The United States always has the welcome mat out to visitors," said Commissioner Bonner. "While CBP has stepped up security at the land, sea, and air ports across our country, we are committed to treat the entry of every legitimate traveler as professionally and fast as possible. By knowing the regulations and what to expect, all international visitors can facilitate their entry and have a safe, secure, and enjoyable visit to the United States."
- -- On your way to the United States you may be given a Customs and Border Protection declaration form. Fill it out entirely and sign the bottom. You may also be given a form I-94 (white) or a form I-94W (green). This will ask you for basic identification information and the full address where you will be staying in the United States.
- -- When you arrive at a port of entry in the United States you will be inspected by an officer of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Be prepared to tell the officer the purpose of your trip and how long you wish to stay.
- -- Most travelers will have a digital photo and two fingerprint scans taken by the officer. This will only add a few seconds to the interview. Be sure to follow the instructions of the CBP officer.
- -- Make sure you have a valid nonimmigrant visa and a passport valid for six months beyond your initial stay in the United States. There are some exceptions to this requirement.
- -- If you are a temporary visitor for business or pleasure, and wish to stay for up to six months, you must apply for a B1/B2 visa at the U.S. Consulate in your country, unless you are exempt the visa requirement altogether.
- -- If you are planning to travel for another purpose, e.g. student, temporary worker, crewperson, journalist etc. you must apply for a different visa in the appropriate category through the Department of State at an American Embassy or Consulate abroad.
- -- If you are a citizen of a visa waiver country, you may apply for entry without a visa if you are seeking entry for 90 days or less for business or pleasure. Check to make sure your intended purpose of travel falls within the guidelines.

- -- If you stayed beyond the 90 days allowed under the Visa Waiver Program on your last visit to the U.S.-you are required to get a visa (at a U.S. Consulate in your country) for your next visit to the United States.
- -- Remember, even though certain individuals may be exempt from visa and/or passport requirements, the burden of poof is on the applicant to establish eligibility to enter the United States. Carrying proof of citizenship will help determine this.
- -- Some items may be prohibited from entry, have to meet certain requirements, or require a license or permit. If you would like to bring in any of the following, make sure you find out the rules and regulations concerning them:
- Absinthe
- Biological materials
- Endangered species and their products
- Wildlife
- Meat, poultry, eggs and their products
- Fruits, vegetables and plants
- Hazardous materials
- Weapons
- -- There is no limit on the amount of money (U.S. or foreign) you may bring into or take out of the United States. If you have more than 10,000 dollars or foreign equivalent, however, you must report this to the Customs and Border Protection officer upon entry and/or departure.
- -- Medicine containing habit-forming drugs must be clearly identified. Carry only the amount you normally need. Also bring a prescription or statement from your physician explaining that the medicine is necessary for your well being.

This is a brief overview of U.S. Customs and Border Protection requirements. Tips for Visitors describe the rules in detail. A copy of this brochure can be ordered at CBP's web site at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/publications/order/. You may also call and request a copy from U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Washington, D.C., at 1.877.CUSTOMS or 202.354.1000.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the protection of our nation's borders. CBP unified Customs, Immigration, and Agriculture Inspectors and the Border Patrol into one border agency for the United States.

Over 600,000 Victims Trafficked Annually, Powell Reports

Describes scope of problem and effort to end it, as annual survey is released

(This byliner by Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State, is in the public domain. No republication restrictions. The article may be amended to adjust the use of "today," to reflect the June 14th publication date of the Trafficking in Persons Report.)

Our Trafficking Signal: Stop! By Colin L. Powell, June 14, 2004

Today I presented the 2004 State Department Report on Trafficking in Persons to the President and the Congress, as mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. It's no secret that Congress sometimes requires Executive Branch agencies to do things they might not otherwise choose to do, but in this case we have an example of complete institutional mind-meld.

Trafficking in persons is high on President Bush's priority list, as he emphasized during his UN General Assembly speech this past September. "There's a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable," the President said, and all the agencies represented on the Interagency TIP Task Force that I chair agree.

We are genuinely "seized of the matter," to use the standard diplomatic parlance, and the reason is obvious: The more you learn about how the most innocent and vulnerable among us are savaged by these crimes, the more impossible it becomes to look the other way. Women and girls as young as 6 years old being trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation; men are being trafficked into forced labor; children are being trafficked into war as child soldiers.

And the victims are not few. We estimate 600,000-800,000 cases each year of trafficking victims taken across international frontiers. And that does not include those who are victimized within their own countries. The vast majority of victims, international and otherwise, are women and children.

Numbers so large can freeze our imaginations. But every case is different, and every case is monstrous. Consider just one example. Southeast Asian traffickers took Khan,

an 11-year-old girl living in the hills of Laos, to an embroidery factory in a large city. She and other children were made to work 14 hours a day for food and clothing, but no wages. When Khan protested this, she was beaten. When she protested again, she was stuffed into a closet where the factory owner's son fired a gun pellet into her cheek and poured industrial chemicals over her.

Such horrors, multiplied hundreds of thousands-fold, must not stand unchallenged. Under the President's direction, we have drawn unprecedented attention to the trafficking problem. The 2004 Report, like its predecessors, puts pressure on countries whose performances are deficient. Our TIP monitoring system has three tiers, and if a country's practices land it in Tier 3, it faces significant sanctions. Several countries have cleaned up their acts to avoid Tier 3 status, and real people have been helped, real lives have been saved, as a result.

We're also exerting ourselves more than ever to help victims of trafficking. The State Department supports Angel Coalition, which assists NGOs in Russia and is building an international hotline to improve investigations of trafficking rings and to get more convictions in court. USAID funds the International Justice Mission, an NGO active in fighting trafficking in Cambodia. The work of these and other groups is heroic, and gives us hope that ever more people are joining the battle against trafficking worldwide.

But we are not satisfied with our progress. Up to 18,000 cases a year afflict our own country, despite the redoubling of our efforts under the Protect Act. And we are not satisfied with our progress abroad, because trafficking is linked to other problems of the gravest concern.

Trafficking is linked to international crime syndicates that peddle drugs, guns and false documents as well as people. Trafficking is a global public health threat that helps spreads HIV/AIDs and other terrible diseases. And trafficking is a global security threat, because the profits from trafficking finance still more crime and violence.

A host of international covenants and national laws already condemn and outlaw trafficking, and that is good. But agreements and laws must be honored and enforced, fairly and consistently, if they are to matter. As we know from the campaigns of the past against piracy and the African slave trade, new norms take root only when the power of enforcement stands behind them.

That power cannot be just American power. Trafficking in persons is a transnational problem requiring transnational cooperation, and that cooperation is still wanting. We call upon all states to work harder and more closely together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims.

All nations, too, must redouble their determination to prevent people from being lured into trafficking in the first place. We are not naïve. The underlying sources of trafficking run deep. In many societies there is still a lack of basic respect and economic opportunity for women. Civil strife and corruption drive people to desperation, and into the clutches of traffickers. Racism plays a role, too, in some parts of the world.

Such evils cannot be eradicated in a single generation. Perhaps we cannot ever eradicate them entirely, but we can reduce and contain them. We won't know what we can achieve, however, if we don't try. So we try; we fight. Other barbarities in human society have been made taboo and conquered. After all, legalized slavery and piracy were once common practices. Many believed such evils could never be eliminated, just as some thought that polio and small pox would be scourges of humanity forever.

They were wrong, and their fatalism was a part of the problem. As we know, for evil to triumph it is enough that good men and women merely do nothing. We will not do nothing. Our goal regarding the crimes of trafficking in persons is the same as our goal regarding terrorism — to stigmatize and stop both.

We fight not just for the victims, and potential victims, of human trafficking. We fight also for ourselves, because we cannot fully embrace our own dignity as human beings unless we champion the dignity of others. We recognize this obligation as a variant of the Golden Rule, and that gold still shines as brightly as ever. It lights our path, and we will follow that path.

The 2004 Report is one step toward our ultimate success, and every step matters. I urge everyone to read this Report -- it's posted at www.state.gov -- and to do what you can, in your own communities, to help us confront this challenge. We in Government will not stop until we put a stop to the crimes of human trafficking once and for all -- but we welcome everyone's company on the journey.

STUDENTS FROM MUSLIM WORLD TAKE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE BACK HOME

State's Harrison highlights students' "unique leadership roles"

By Erin Block Washington File Writer

Washington -- For the last year students from all over the Muslim world have been living with American families, learning in American schools, enjoying American pastimes and soaking in American culture.

This past weekend they returned home with a better understanding of America.

The students are hoping to bring the real picture of America back to their family, friends and country.

"My parents think that the U.S. is dangerous or too crazy, but I've learned by living here that it's a good place to be," said Bilquis Sadeq, a student from Yemen.

Sami Qarmout, a Palestinian student, said his strongest impression is that "America is just a mix of cultures."

It was through this diversity that Qarmout was able to gain a better perspective on his own country while in the United States.

"My host family had some friends and family over for Thanksgiving dinner with a big turkey. One of the guests was an Israeli woman. It was especially interesting for me as a Palestinian to have dinner with her," said Qarmout.

"The problems back at home between the Israelis and Palestinians are because people don't interact. They live less than one kilometer away and they are all surrounded by barbed wire and they don't get to meet. I first met an Israeli person here, met her without the bomb or the tank. I formed a relationship, an alliance with an Israeli woman and got in touch with my country and its issue more when I came to the U.S. than back at home,"