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PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

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Issues

- Hurricane Relief
- Homeland Security
- Judicial Nominations
- National Security
- Renewal in Iraq
- Jobs & Economy
- Social Security
- [More Issues »](#)

News

- Current News
- Press Briefings
- Proclamations
- Executive Orders
- Radio

[RSS Feeds](#)

News by Date

- [October 2005](#)
- [September 2005](#)
- [August 2005](#)
- [July 2005](#)
- [June 2005](#)
- [May 2005](#)
- [April 2005](#)
- [March 2005](#)
- [February 2005](#)
- [January 2005](#)
- [December 2004](#)
- [November 2004](#)
- [October 2004](#)
- [September 2004](#)
- [August 2004](#)
- [July 2004](#)
- [June 2004](#)
- [May 2004](#)
- [April 2004](#)
- [March 2004](#)
- [February 2004](#)
- [January 2004](#)
- [December 2003](#)
- [November 2003](#)
- [October 2003](#)
- [September 2003](#)
- [August 2003](#)
- [July 2003](#)
- [June 2003](#)
- [May 2003](#)
- [April 2003](#)
- [March 2003](#)
- [February 2003](#)
- [January 2003](#)
- [December 2002](#)
- [November 2002](#)
- [October 2002](#)

[Home](#) > [News & Policies](#) > [June 2004](#)

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)

[Email This Page](#)



For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
June 8, 2004

President Discusses Security Council Resolution on Iraq at G8 Summit

Remarks by the President and Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan in Photo Opportunity
Dunbar House
Sea Island, Georgia

[G8 Summit page](#)

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 to - 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.

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[view](#)

[listen](#)



- September 2002
- August 2002
- July 2002
- June 2002
- May 2002
- April 2002
- March 2002
- February 2002
- January 2002
- December 2001
- November 2001
- October 2001
- September 2001
- August 2001
- July 2001
- June 2001
- May 2001
- April 2001
- March 2001
- February 2001
- January 2001

Interact

- Ask the White House
- White House Interactive

Appointments

- Nominations
- Application



PHOTO ESSAYS



Federal Facts

- Federal Statistics

West Wing

- History

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.

Q 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 the - 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.

End 12:38 P.M. EDT



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