



The White House

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



EMAIL UPDATES

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

- 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
- September 2002

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

 [Printer-Friendly Version](#)

 [Email This Page](#)

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
June 9, 2004

President Bush, President Al-Yawer Remarks

Remarks by the President and President Al-Yawer of Iraq in Photo Opportunity

3:49 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. President, thanks for being here. This has been a special day for me and those of us in my administration who are here, because I really never thought I'd be sitting next to an Iraqi President of a free country a year and a half ago -- and here you are. Not only are you here to visit with me, and we've had a wonderful talk, but you're here to talk to the leadership of the G8, leaders of the free world. And I am so grateful you are here. Please convey my best wishes to your Prime Minister, as well.

Yesterday, the United Nations sent a clear message that the world supports a free Iraq. And the United States supports a transfer of full sovereignty to you, Mr. President, and your government. And having visited with you, having talked to you, and having listened to you, I have got great faith in the future of your country, because you believe in the hopes and aspirations of the Iraqi people.

It's been a proud day for me. I'm glad you're here.

PRESIDENT AL-YAWER: Thank you. First of all, I'd like to, on behalf of the Iraqi people, to thank you for giving us this chance to attend the G8 Summit, where, again, thanks to the American people, for the leadership of President George Bush, without which we couldn't have been here into the G8, Mr. President, I'd like to express to you the commitment of the Iraqi people to move toward democracy. We are moving in a steady -- steady steps toward it. We're determined to have a free, democratic, federal Iraq, a country that is a source of stability to the Middle East, which is very important for the rest of the world.

Again, Mr. President, I'd like to thank the American people for the sacrifices that the brave men and women of the United States toward trying to liberate Iraq. We're working with all our hearts to make sure that all these sacrifices of the Iraqis, as well as our friends in the coalition, will not go to avail, that all these will be to the benefit of the Iraqi government.

Thank you very much, sir.

END 3:52 P.M. EDT



- 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



 [Printer-Friendly Version](#)

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