

our peoples, and to work jointly to counter global challenges and help resolve regional conflicts. We also declared that where we had differences, we would work to resolve them in a spirit of mutual respect.

We have met again to reaffirm our Nations' partnership and our commitment to meet together the challenges of the 21st century.

With the completion of the ratification procedures by the United States Senate, and the two houses of the Russian Federal Assembly, we have been able to exchange instruments of ratification for the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions. The Treaty takes effect immediately. The deep reductions of strategic nuclear warheads that it codifies are another indication of the transformed relationship between our two countries.

We will intensify efforts to confront the global threats of terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, that threaten our peoples and freedom-loving peoples around the world.

In this regard, we declare our intention to advance concrete joint projects in the area of missile defense which will help deepen relations between the United States and Russia.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting Designations Under
the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act
May 29, 2003**

Dear 111111 :

I transmit herewith my designation of the following four foreign persons and three foreign entities as appropriate for sanctions under section 804(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act, 21 U.S.C. 1901-1908, and report my direction of sanctions against them under that Act:

Juan Jose Esparragoza Moreno
Jose Albino Quintero Meraz
Hector Luis Palma Salazar
United Wa State Army
Leonardo Dias Mendonca

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
(Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de
Colombia, "FARC")

United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia
(Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia,
"AUC")

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Charles E. Grassley, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance; Pat Roberts, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; Duncan Hunter, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; Christopher Cox, chairman, House Select Committee on Homeland Security; Porter J. Goss, chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary; and William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 2.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
President Jacques Chirac and an
Exchange With Reporters in Evian-
les-Bains, France**

June 2, 2003

President Bush. First of all, I want to thank Jacques for his warm hospitality. We've had a really good meeting. This morning we talked about our common desires to grow our economies. I thought it was a very interesting and fantastic meeting; I really did.

Today I'm going to meet with Jacques here in a little bit and ask his advice on the Middle East. He's a man who knows a lot about the Middle East, he has got good judgment about the Middle East, and we will spend some time discussing that.

I know there's a lot of—a lot of people in both our countries wondering whether or not we could actually sit down and have a comfortable conversation. And the answer is: Absolutely. We can have disagreements, but that doesn't mean we have to be disagreeable to each other. And so I'm very glad I came

and would say absolutely that this has been a very helpful and a positive meeting. Thank you, sir, for your hospitality.

[At this point, President Chirac spoke in French, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. We've agreed to take one question apiece. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], do you want to ask a question?

President's Upcoming Visit to Egypt

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us your expectations for the summit in Sharm el-Sheikh? And what are you hearing from the region?

President Bush. Well, first let me talk about my expectations for the G-8. They have been met. I was hoping to come to Europe and to say that a united Europe working with America can do a lot of good; it can do a lot of good on issues such as fighting terror or working on matters such as proliferation. We can do a lot of good to help those who suffer in the world. And so the expectations—at least as far as I'm concerned—have been met here.

My expectations in the Middle East are to call all the respective parties to their responsibility to achieve peace, and to make it very clear that my country and I will put in as much time as necessary to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace.

I fully understand this is going to be a difficult process. I fully understand we need to work with our friends, such as France, to achieve the process. I know we won't make progress unless people assume their responsibilities. The first message is, I will dedicate the time and energy to move the process forward. And I think we'll make some progress. I know we're making progress.

[A question was asked and answered in French, and no translation was provided.]

France-U.S. Relations

President Bush. Yes, and I want to thank President Chirac's support in the latest resolution in the United Nations. Listen, we must be frank, we went through a difficult period. I understand his position. He made it very clear to me in the very beginning. There was no question where Jacques Chirac stood, and

I made it—I made it clear where I stood. And that's why I can say we've got good relations, because we're able to be very honest with each other.

But when it came time to focus on a free Iraq, a healthy Iraq, a prosperous Iraq, we're in agreement, and we will move together to ensure that the Iraqi people have now got the capacity to run their own country. It's going to take them time to get there. It's a difficult situation in Iraq, but we are committed to a free Iraq, and together we can make that happen more quickly than if we were still at odds on the issue.

Thank you, Jacques, appreciate it.

[A question was asked and answered in French, and no translation was provided.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:42 a.m. at the Hotel Royal. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma

June 2, 2003

I am deeply concerned by reports from Burma of the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and members of her political party as well as reports that military authorities have closed her party headquarters in Rangoon. The military authorities should release Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters immediately and permit her party headquarters to re-open.

The situation in Burma has long been of concern to the United States. We have urged Burmese officials to release all political prisoners and to offer their people a better way of life, a life offering freedom and economic progress. We welcomed the release of Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest more than a year ago. This step gave the military regime an opportunity to enter into a substantive dialog with Aung San Suu Kyi and all political groups to promote national reconciliation and democracy. This is still the only path to peace and prosperity for all of Burma's people.