

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WRITTEN REMARKS PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 3, 2008

BY HIS EXCELLENCY ABDALLAH BAALI

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA



Mr. President,

I am greatly honored and privileged to present to you today the Letters of Credence from the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, accrediting me to Your Excellency as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. I also wish to present to you the Letters of Recall of my predecessor, Ambassador Amine Kherbi.

Allow me to seize this opportunity to also convey to you the warmest greetings and best wishes of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika who greatly values your friendship and appreciates your availability and readiness to work with him to enhance the relations between our two countries and establish the strong foundations needed for a lasting and mutually beneficial partnership between Algeria and the United States of America.

Mr. President,

Today, as I embark on this challenging and yet exciting mission in the United States of America, I take pleasure in underlining the growing convergence of views between Algeria and the United States of America on a wide array of bilateral, regional and international issues. I am also encouraged by the multitude of opportunities that have opened up over the years for our two countries and allowed them to work together to further enhance their increasingly positive relations and to explore new and more promising possibilities to solidify their cooperation.

Algeria greatly values the friendship it has shared with the United States of America since the two countries signed the Treaty of Amity and Peace on September 5, 1795. That spirit of friendship and cooperation is very much alive today and is stronger than ever before.

My country has repeatedly demonstrated its solidarity and cooperation with the United States of America. Today, it remains fully engaged and steadfast in its support to fight transnational terrorism. Since the September 11 attacks, which it condemned publicly, Algeria has established a strong and active cooperation in this area and has worked very closely with the United States of America and many other partners around the globe to help defeat this threat to world peace and security. Its commitment in this regard is total and unwavering.

Having defeated terrorism strategically and politically, Algeria is a country at peace but continues nonetheless to uphold a vigilant and uncompromising policy towards it. My country has been focusing its efforts and resources on a process of renovation and implementation of national reconciliation with a view to consolidating social peace and building a modern and prosperous society. It is also fully engaged in deepening ambitious reforms and consolidating democratic practices, good governance and the rule of law, deeply convinced that such fundamental factors are at the root of a sustained economic and social development accessible to all Algerian citizens. Supporting this effort is essential to long-term stability in our region and on our continent and to American interests.

Mr. President,

Relations between Algeria and the United States of America have entered a new and very promising phase and are stronger than they have ever been. In addition to friendly political ties, our two countries enjoy strong economic relations as well. Algeria is today the largest trading partner of the United States in North Africa and second in the Arab world and Africa.

My country enjoys huge natural resources, significant assets in foreign reserves and is embarked on implementing a wide array of ambitious development programs. Additionally to offering tremendous opportunities for investment and involvement of foreign partners, Algeria is an important and reliable supplier of liquefied natural gas and petroleum products to many countries, including the United States. In this capacity, it plays an important role in ensuring the security of America's energy supply.

While our relations have been developing in a satisfactory manner, there is a lot more that Algeria and the United States can do together and take full advantage of the numerous unexplored potentialities in both countries.

Algeria is also a major contributor to peace and stability in the Maghreb, in Africa and in the Mediterranean region, where its central geographical location enhances its strategic role. True to the immovable principles guiding its foreign policy, namely, sovereignty of peoples, independence of States, and the right of peoples to self-determination, Algeria is a firm believer in concerted actions led in strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. My country

grants extreme importance to international cooperation and stresses the contribution of the United Nations and multilateral organizations. At the global level, it strives to foster the preeminence of peace, justice, development and trust among nations.

Mr. President,

As I assume my role as Ambassador of Algeria to the United States of America, I pledge to Your Excellency that I will devote all my energy and efforts to furthering and strengthening the already promising relations between our two countries. I eagerly look forward to working with your Administration to expand our ties and to opening up new vistas for bilateral cooperation and concertation at all levels between Algeria and the United States of America.

I wish to close my remarks by expressing to you my gratitude and my thanks for the gracious and warm welcome you extended to me and to my family at the White House.