



CLIP TRANSCRIPT

Lee Wolosky—Bipartisan Support for Closing Guantanamo

It's very important to remember that closing Guantanamo was a bipartisan policy until just the past few years.

President Bush released over 500 people from Guantanamo without the security assurances that we put in place and that I described here today. He concluded by the end of his second term that, and he wrote this in his memoirs, *Decision Points*, that it was important to close Guantanamo because it was a recruitment tool for people who were inciting hatred against the United States, and it was a distraction for our allies, is basically what he wrote. So it was his policy to close Guantanamo.

McCain, John McCain during his 2008 presidential election said that he was in favor of closing Guantanamo. Obama said that he wanted to close Guantanamo.

So it's only been in the past several years that closing Guantanamo has become a political hot potato. So we talked about all these things with our friends and partners and fortunately, we were able to move a lot of people out of Guantanamo with their cooperation and assistance.