

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024*

**Remarks in an Exchange With Reporters in Hagerstown, Maryland**  
*August 16, 2024*

*Israel-Hamas Cease-Fire and Hostage Release Negotiations*

*Q.* How are the cease-fire talks?

*The President.* So far, as of an hour ago, they're still in play. I'm optimistic. Not to—far from over. Just a couple more issues. I think we've got a shot.

*Q.* Are you more optimistic now than you have been in months past?

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* Why?

*The President.* If I told you that, I'd give away what's going on.

*Timeframe of a Potential Cease-Fire Agreement*

*Q.* When would the cease-fire begin if you can get a deal?

*The President.* That remains to be seen.

*Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois*

*Q.* Okay. Are you going to work on your speech this weekend?

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* Okay.

*Q.* What's your message to Democrats on Monday night?

*The President.* Win. *[Laughter]*

All right. Thank you, guys.

*Q.* Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:49 p.m. on the tarmac at Hagerstown Regional Airport upon arrival from Philadelphia, PA, en route to Camp David, MD. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 17. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

*Categories:* Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, Hagerstown, MD.

*Locations:* Hagerstown, MD.

*Subjects:* 2024 Presidential election; Gaza, conflict with Israel; Israel, military operations in Gaza; Maryland, President's visit; News media, Presidential interviews.

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