

**Remarks on the Election of Pope Leo IV and an Exchange With Reporters**

*May 8, 2025*

*[The President's remarks were joined in progress.]*

*The President.* Such an honor for our country. *[Inaudible]* It's such a great honor for our country to have an American Pope. And I mean, what greater honor could there be? And we were a little bit surprised, but very happy. But it's just a great—absolutely great honor. So——

*United Kingdom—U.S. Trade/Professional Golfer Eldrick T. "Tiger" Woods*

*Q.* Is this the first of many, Mr. President—the first of many trade agreements we can expect you to announce here at the White House?

*The President.* Say it again.

*Q.* Is this the first of many trade agreements we can expect you to announce here at the White House?

*The President.* No, we'll do others from the White House. We have—we're working on three of them right now—trade agreements. We're doing three.

And we just left Tiger. You saw Tiger, who is fantastic, a great champion, great guy.

And—but no, we'll—we'll be doing a lot of—a lot of the signings. They—they would like to do them in the Oval Office.

*[At this point, several reporters began asking questions at once.]*

*U.S. Agricultural Products*

*Q.* Mr. President, are you sure the U.K. will take chlorinated chicken? Mr. President, are you sure that the U.K. will take American chlorinated chicken? That deal has not been done yet.

*The President.* What is that?

*Q.* Are you sure that the U.K. will take American chlorinated chicken? That deal has not been done yet.

*The President.* Well, we're changing all of that, but we have it both ways. You know, we have it both ways.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

*Q.* Mr. President, are you still going to make an earth-shattering announcement?

*The President's Withdrawal of the Nomination of Ed Martin To Be U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia*

*Q.* Sir—sir, why did you pull the nominee for the DC U.S. attorney, sir?

*The President.* We'll have somebody great. We'll have somebody great.

*Q.* Why did you pull him though, sir?

*The President.* I really thought he was terrific, but we are doing so many different things right now that we couldn't be really focused on it. He's a wonderful guy. He's going to have a great future, maybe with us.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

*Q.* Mr. President, do you regret the image of yourself posted on social media dressed as the pope?

*The President.* What's next?

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

#### *The President's Schedule/Holy See (Vatican City) Outreach to the White House*

*Q.* Mr. President, are you planning to—are you planning to meet the Pope in the near future?

*The President.* I do, yes. They've already called.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

They've already called.

*Q.* They've already called?

*Q.* Have you met him before?

*Q.* When is that? What time did they call?

*The President.* They've already called.

*Q.* Do you have a time in mind?

*The President.* They've—they have already spoken to us, and we'll see what happens. But, again, to have the Pope from the United States of America, that's a great honor. That's a great honor.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

I'm watching, and they said, "He's from"—

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

I'm watching, and they said, "He's from America." I said, "That's great."

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

#### *The President's Intentions To Meet With Pope Leo XIV*

*Q.* Have you spoken to the Pope in person?

*Q.* Are you going to call him, Mr. President? Will you call?

*Q.* Are you going to meet in person?

*The President.* I am.

*Q.* Have you met him before? Have you—

#### *President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia*

*Q.* Is there still a chance you might meet Vladimir Putin in Saudi Arabia next week?

*The President.* I don't think so, but we're having very good conversations.

*Q.* Okay, thank you.

*The President.* Very, very good.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Thank you, everybody.

*Immigration Enforcement Actions*

*Q.* Mr. President, the violence in India and Pakistan—Mr. President, is that going to derail your——

*Q.* Mr. President, I have a question. How—do you have any—do you have any thought of whether or not you would send Haitians to El Salvador? I know you've already said that they could be foreign terrorists through the gangs.

*The President.* I haven't heard about it. No, I haven't heard about it.

*Q.* But you did—you designated the Haitian gangs as foreign terror——

*The President.* Yes. I mean, I haven't heard of—actually, I hope not.

Thank you very much.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* [*Inaudible*—India-Pakistan is going to derail your trade deal?

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:14 p.m. in the West Wing Lobby Entrance at the White House. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on May 9. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

*Categories:* Addresses and Remarks : Pope Leo XIV, election; Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, White House.

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*Names:* Leo XIV, Pope; Martin, Ed; Woods, Eldrick T. "Tiger".

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