

*Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025*

**Remarks Prior to a Working Lunch With Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia and an Exchange With Reporters**

*October 20, 2025*

*President Trump.* Well, thank you very much. It's great to have the Prime Minister of Australia. Fantastic place. And a lot of friends over there, and this is one of them right here.

The Prime Minister is, as you know, Anthony Albanese, and he's highly respected. Done very well in his election. And I hear you're very popular today, right? I mean, it varies from day to day, but—with all of us. But he's done a fantastic job as the Prime Minister.

We're here to talk about trade, submarines, lots of other military equipment. They're big orderers of our great military equipment. We have the best equipment anywhere in the world by far.

*[At this point, a press camera hit a mirror.]*

And—oh, you've got to watch that. Watch that. You're not allowed to break that. That mirror is 400 years old. *[Laughter]* A camera just hit the mirror. Ai, yai, yai.

I just moved it up here special from the vaults, and first thing that happens, a camera hits it. Hard to believe, isn't it? Hard to believe. But these are the problems in life.

So we're going to be here to talk about lots of different things. And we might take a few questions before, but we are discussing critical minerals and rare earths, and we're going to be signing an agreement that's been negotiated over a period of 4 or 5 months. And it was sort of good timing that we got it done just in time for the visit.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Perfect.

*President Trump.* And we worked together very much on rare earths, critical minerals, and lots of other things. And we've had a very good relationship. We've been working on that for quite a while.

In about a year from now, we'll have so much critical mineral and rare earths that you won't know what to do with them. They'll be worth about \$2. But in the meantime, we're working with Australia and other countries. They're working with us too, but other countries also on that. But we're really working on anything having to do with military protection and military ships, vehicles, guns, ammunition, everything, the whole thing.

We've been long-term, longtime allies. And I would say, there's never been anybody better. We fought wars together. We never had any doubts. And it's a great honor to have you as my friend, it's a great honor to have you in the United States of America.

Please, would you like to say something?

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Well, thank you so much, Mr. President, for the invitation here to the White House and to—for showing us around the improved Oval Office and for what you're doing around here as well, and for the great honor as well of my delegation. Staying just across the road, we could have walked, but they didn't let us. We drove all of 20 meters——

*President Trump.* Yes. Right.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* ——there from Blair House. But it's a great honor to be able to stay there.

We are great friends, and we're great allies. And this is a relationship that's been forged in—in the battlefields of the world. We have stood side by side for freedom and democracy.

And congratulations, I must say, Mr. President, on the work that you've done with the Middle East.

*President Trump.* Thank you. Yes.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* It's an extraordinary achievement. And on defense, we've already had a discussion about taking it to the next level. Our defense and security partnership with AUKUS is so important for us, and I thank you for the support that the administration are giving as well. You've had the Chief of the Navy here as well——

*President Trump.* That's right.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* ——which will play, obviously, a very critical role with our—the subs and increasing the security for the region and the world.

And our economic relationship is so important. The U.S. has a trade surplus with Australia, as you know, and we can continue to take what is every opportunity to improve the relationship even further and make it even stronger. And today's agreement on critical minerals and rare earths is just taking it to the next level, seizing those opportunities which are before us to take our relationship to that next level.

And it's been fantastic, the contact that we've had together, the friendship that——

*President Trump.* Right.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* ——we've developed. And Australians love America, and I think Americans kind of like Australia too. [*Laughter*]

*President Trump.* It's true. We do.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* And as we go forward, I think that today will be seen as a really significant day in our relationship. So I thank you very much, Mr. President.

*President Trump.* Well, thank you very much, Anthony. It's an honor to sign this. And we'll do it now, and then we'll take some questions. Some good ones, I think.

[*President Trump and Prime Minister Albanese signed the documents.*]

Okay.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Well, this is an \$8.5 billion pipeline that we have ready to go.

*President Trump.* That's right. It's all ready to go.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Just getting started.

*President Trump.* And we're doing a real job on rare earth and many other things.

Perhaps I could ask John to say a few words, and then we'll exchange papers. But just how are we doing on your naval purchases and all of the submarines that we're working on with Australia? How's that going?

*U.S. Secretary of the Navy John C. Phelan.* Thank you, Mr. President. Obviously, Australia is a very important ally of ours in the Indo-Pacific and in every battle. They've fought with us since World War I, and they've always been side by side.

The facility that they're building, SRF-West, is critical and very important to our ability to project power in the Indo-Pacific and work with our allies.

So we're working very closely. I think what we're really trying to do is take the original AUKUS framework and improve it for all three parties and make it better and clarify some of the ambiguity that was in the prior agreement. So it should be a win-win for everybody, sir.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Terrific.

*President Trump.* And the submarines that we're building for Australia are starting to really move along. Right? The process is getting very exciting, isn't it?

*Secretary Phelan.* We're getting better.

*President Trump.* That's good. Very good. Thank you.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* It will be great.

*President Trump.* Thank you very much. Maybe we'll hold this up. Okay?

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Here we go.

[*President Trump and Prime Minister Albanese held up the signed documents.*]

Thank you.

*President Trump.* Thank you very much.

#### *AUKUS Trilateral Security Partnership/Submarine Construction*

*Q.* The AUKUS defense pact that the Prime Minister just mentioned, it is a critical issue for Australia.

*President Trump.* Yes.

Yes.

*Q.* You haven't really spoken much about it publicly. It was a deal that was done under Joe Biden to sell submarines to Australia at a time when you're not really making enough for your own needs. So can you tell us, have you gone across the details of the deal?

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* Do you support it? And will you honor it?

*President Trump.* It was made a while ago, and nobody did anything about it, and it was going too slowly. We do actually have a lot of submarines. We have the best submarines in the world, anywhere in the world, and we're building—a few more are currently under construction. And now we're starting. We have it all set with Anthony.

We've worked on this long and hard, and we're starting that process right now. And it's—I think it's really moving along very rapidly, very well.

*Q.* [*Inaudible*—production doesn't continue, how do you guarantee Australia will get the boats?

*President Trump.* Oh, it's getting—oh no, they're getting them.

*Q.* At least 32 people have been killed in those——

*President Trump.* Excuse me. You're next.

*Q.* Thank you.

*President Trump.* Go ahead.

#### *China-U.S. Trade/Tariffs/U.S. Trade Negotiations*

*Q.* China's bad behavior has really only gotten worse since the AUKUS partnership was formed. With that in mind, is the door open for Australia to get additional nuclear-powered submarines or other military capabilities——

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* ——not already in the deal?

*President Trump.* I think China's been very respectful of us. They're paying tremendous amounts of money to us as—in the form of tariffs. As you know, they're paying 55 percent. That's a lot of money. They never were paying anything over years and years and years.

But they were like anybody else. A lot of countries took advantage of the U.S. They're not taking advantage anymore. No, China's paying 55 percent and a potential 155 percent come November 1 unless we make a deal. And I'm meeting with President Xi. We have a very good relationship. We're going to be meeting in South Korea in a couple of weeks, and we'll see what we can do.

We have a very good relationship with China, but you know, it's been probably a little bit like your relationship with China. They try and take advantage, but most countries do. I mean, I can say the European Union took advantage and—but not anymore. We've worked out a very fair trade deal. Japan, we worked out a very fair deal. South Korea, where I'll be meeting President Xi, we worked out a very fair deal. And I expect we'll probably work out a very fair deal with President Xi of China.

So most of you will be with us. It's going to be very exciting. And I think we're going to work out something that's good for both countries.

*[Several reporters began asking questions at once.]*

#### *AUKUS Trilateral Security Partnership*

*Q.* Are you at least interested in expediting the—excuse me—are you at least interested in expediting the nuclear-powered subs to Australia?

*President Trump.* Well, we are doing that, yes. We're doing that.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

We have them moving very, very quickly.

Yes, please.

#### *Australia/President Trump's Schedule*

*Q.* Mr. President, I don't think you've ever been to Australia. Have you thought about coming to Australia and trying out some of the golf courses?

*President Trump.* I would. And I actually have been to Australia, and I did play one of your great golf courses. They have great golf courses there. But I have been to Australia, actually, and——

*Q.* Would you come again?

*President Trump.* Oh, I would. In fact, I've been invited to go and——

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Indeed.

*President Trump.* ——and I'll have to give it serious consideration. No, it's a real possibility.

*Q.* Did the Prime Minister invite you today?

*President Trump.* He did.

*Q.* Did Australia——

*Prime Minister Albanese.* And perhaps we could time it, must be said, with the Presidents Cup that Australia hosts as well. *[Laughter]* So——

*President Trump.* When is the Presidents Cup?

*Prime Minister Albanese.* We'll organize it at a time suitable for you, Mr. President. *[Laughter]*

*President Trump.* That's nice. Thank you, Mr.——

All right. Please, in the back. Please. Yes, in the back.

#### *Australia-U.S. Trade/Boeing Company*

*Q.* Yes, Mr. President, the Prime Minister mentioned that there's a trade imbalance that's very heavily in America's favor. Why does America slap such heavy tariffs on a friend and ally like Australia?

*President Trump.* Well, we don't—yes, well, we do in some cases—we do in many cases because we've been treated unfairly. But actually, the tariffs are very light.

The one thing is you buy a lot of airplanes, so that helps, because you buy a lot of the beautiful Boeings, the best of the Boeings. Boeing—and by the way, Boeing is really doing well. They have lots of orders, and they're really doing a great job. They make a great plane.

But Australia, because of its location, which is great—but one of the things dictated by that location is you have to order a lot of airplanes, so I guess we have that advantage. They need a lot of airplanes in Australia, and that gives us a little bit of an advantage.

Yes, please.

#### *China-U.S. Relations/Taiwan*

*Q.* Mr. President, your Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, in his Shangri-La speech in I think it was May warned about the potential likelihood or threat of President Xi ordering an invasion of Taiwan. 2027 is also the year that Fleet Base West is supposed to start rotating those U.S. and U.K. submarines. Do you see AUKUS as a deterrent for China in the Indo-Pacific?

*President Trump.* Yes, I do. I think it is, but I don't think we're going to need it. I think we'll be just fine with China. China doesn't want to do that.

First of all, the United States is the strongest military power in the world by far. It's not even close. Not even close. We have the best equipment. We have the best of everything, and nobody's going to mess with that. And I don't see that at all with President Xi. I think we're going to get along very well as it pertains to Taiwan and others.

Now, that doesn't mean it's not the apple of his eye, because probably it is, but I don't see anything happening. We have a very good trade relationship. We're going to have a very good—I think when we leave South Korea—I could be wrong, but I think we'll end up with a very strong trade deal, both of us will be happy.

No. I don't see that happening, no.

#### *Australia-U.S. Trade/President Trump's Foreign Policy/Tariffs*

*Q.* Mr. President, given the trade surplus that the U.S. enjoys with Australia, would you consider lifting the tariffs that you've imposed on Australia? And can you give us any details about the critical minerals agreement that's been signed?

*President Trump.* Yes. Well, the tariffs have been amazing, because, you know, tariffs have been really a reason that I was able to settle almost all of the—you know, I've settled eight wars in 8 months. Not bad. I have one more to go. It's Russia-Ukraine. And I think we'll get there. But it's turned out to be nasty because you have two leaders that truly hate each other. You know, can't—you can't have it all, right? They hate each other beyond all else, and it makes it, actually, a little bit difficult.

But we—of the eight deals, I would say, because of tariffs, four or five of them were settled. It's an amazing thing, the power of tariffs in terms of our country. But tariffs have always been used against us; we never used them against anywhere else. And now you have a President that for national security reasons and other reasons is using them, and we're—we've become a very rich nation again and a very secure nation again.

But we've also become a nation that used that power of tariffs and the power of trade to settle five of the eight wars that I settled—I settled eight. I'm very proud of that. Nobody else has settled one. I don't think there's been an American President that settled one. I think there probably hasn't been, outside of the two countries involved, or however many are at war, I don't think there's ever been an outside country that settled a war, period.

So I settled eight in 8 months. I'm proud of that. Now, in the meantime, I'm running a country that's—right now we're the hottest country anywhere in the world. We were dead. A year and a half ago, we were a dead country. Now we're the hottest country in the world, economically and otherwise.

So—but I will say this, Australia pays very low tariffs—very, very low tariffs. In fact, Australia pays among the lowest tariffs.

Please. Go ahead, please.

#### *Australia-U.S. Relations*

*Q.* Mr. President, there's been a concern in Australia that it's taken 9 months to get this meeting. Have you had any concerns with this administration and the stance on Palestine, climate change, or even things the Ambassador said about you in the past, the Australian Ambassador?

*President Trump.* I don't know anything about him. But, I mean, if he said bad, then maybe he'll like to apologize. I really don't know. Did an Ambassador say something bad about me? No, don't tell me. I don't—[*laughter*]. Where is he? Is he still working for you?

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Yes, yes.

[*Prime Minister Albanese gestured to Australia's Ambassador to the U.S. Kevin M. Rudd.*]

*President Trump.* [*Laughter*] You said bad?

*Ambassador Rudd.* Before I took this position, Mr. President.

*President Trump.* I don't like you either. [*Laughter*] I don't. And I probably never will.

Go ahead.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

No, you went. Go ahead, behind you, please.

#### *AUKUS Trilateral Security Partnership*

*Q.* Mr. President, your Secretary of the Navy said there will be some clarifications around some ambiguities on AUKUS. Can you tell us——

*President Trump.* Well, he'll get that taken care of. These are just minor details that he'll take care of.

*Q.* Can I ask you specifically on——

*President Trump.* John, you're going to get that taken care of, right?

*Secretary Phelan.* Correct.

*President Trump.* There shouldn't be any more clarifications, because we're just going now full steam ahead building.

Yes, please.

### *Australian Defense Spending*

*Q.* Thank you. Mr. President, are you now satisfied with Australia's defense investment, or do you want Australia to invest more in defense?

*President Trump.* Well, I'd always like more, but they have to do what they have to do. You know, you can only do so much. I think they've been great. They're building magnificent holding pads for the submarines. It's going to be expensive too. You know, you wouldn't believe the level of complexity and how expensive it is. They're building tremendous docking, because they have a lot of ships and a lot of things happening, and I think their military has been very strong—very, very strong.

Over here, please.

### *Ukraine/Russia/U.S. Airstrikes on Iranian Nuclear Facilities/Peace Efforts in the Middle East*

*Q.* Mr. President, on the war that you haven't solved yet, the Ukraine-Russia situation. Have you not locked in a meeting? And can you explain, just a few weeks ago at UNGA, you said that Ukraine could possibly win the war and—[inaudible]—territory, but now——

*President Trump.* Well, they could. They could still win it. I don't think they will, but they could still win it.

I never said they would win it, I said they could win—anything can happen. You know, war is a very strange thing. A lot of bad things happen, a lot of good things happen.

If you look at the Middle East, I would say, prior to us hitting Iran so hard, we could have never made that deal, because you would've had a dark cloud over the Middle East. When we took out their nuclear capability, which was one of the great military maneuvers of all time—it was flawless. You saw that.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Yes.

*President Trump.* Those magnificent B-2s. I mean, that was a flawless move that was done by some very talented people, headed up by Pete and everybody else and our great generals—and general in particular, Raizin Caine—we did a great job. And when that happened, everything was different and we were able to get a deal.

If we didn't do that, if it wasn't—you know, they've wanted to do that for 22 years, Mr. Prime Minister. For 22 years. I had the pilots here, the B-2 pilots, and they came to the Oval Office, and I thought they deserved it. They flew 37 hours back and forth. We had 52 tankers up there. We had a lot of planes up there with them, but they were the primary plane. But we had a

lot of planes—F-22s and F-35s and F-16s—we had a lot of planes. But we had 52 tankers, can you believe that? It was just like a flawless mission.

And when it was finished, the Middle East just opened up. Amazing.

And they've wanted to do it for 22 years. The pilots came up to me, they said: "For 22 years, we practiced this maneuver. Three times a year for 22 years, our predecessors and us." These are now young pilots, you know, but their older-now predecessors practiced it. And they said, "We never had a President that would let us do it," but I let them do it.

And it totally opened up the Middle East. It took the cloud over the—you know, we had a dark cloud over the Middle East and now it's all—I mean, we have a little situation, relatively, with Hamas, and that will be taken care of very quickly if they don't straighten it out themselves, because they're in violation of their agreement.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

*Q. [Inaudible]—change the equation?*

#### *Rare Earth Minerals*

*Q.* Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. President. On rare earth minerals, Australia is one of the only places in the world that processes rare earth minerals.

*President Trump.* Ys. That's good.

*Q.* Could there be an agreement—China has 90 percent of the processing. Could there be an agreement over processing rare earth minerals with Australia?

*President Trump.* Sure.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Yes.

*President Trump.* That's what we're doing.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* That's——

*President Trump.* It's part of the agreement.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Part of the agreement——

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

*President Trump.* Go ahead, please.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Past——

*Q.* Also—thank you, sir. Just—sorry.

*President Trump.* Ys.

#### *Taiwan Political Status*

*Q.* A follow-up on Taiwan, there are reports that you will come up—or China's pressuring you to not support independence for Taiwan in exchange for a trade deal.

*President Trump.* Well, I'm not going to talk about that. What I'll talk about, you and I will have that discussion in a couple of weeks when I'm in South Korea with President Xi. We're going to be talking about a lot of things. I assume that's going to be one of the things. But I'm not going to talk about that now.

Yes, please. Go ahead.



*U.S. Cease-Fire Agreement Between Hamas and Israel/Potential U.S. Involvement in Gaza*

*Q.* Mr. President, you just alluded to the violence in the Middle East. What steps is the administration taking to maintain the cease-fire at this phase?

*President Trump.* Well, a lot of steps, and right now it's in the hands of others. You know, we have 59 countries that agreed to the deal. We have peace in the Middle East for the first time ever. We made a deal with Hamas that, you know, they're going to be very good, they're going to behave, they're going to be nice. And if they're not, we're going to go and we're going to eradicate them if we have to. They'll be eradicated, and they know that.

So they went in—and I don't believe it was the leadership, but they had some rebellion in there among themselves and they killed some people—you know, pretty—a lot of people. But this is a violent group. You know, you probably noticed over the last hundred years. This is a very violent group of people. And they got very rambunctious, and they did things that they shouldn't be doing. And if they keep doing it, then we're going to go in and straighten it out, and it'll happen very quickly and pretty violently, unfortunately.

Go ahead. You.

*Hamas*

*Q.* Yes, just following up on that question. When you say, "We are going to eradicate Hamas"—

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* Who is "we"? Does that include American boots on the ground? Could you clarify that?

*President Trump.* No, it won't be on the ground at all. We don't need to because we have many countries, as you know, signed onto this deal. The way I view it—59 countries and unanimous. There's never been—nobody ever believed it was—countries that 4 months ago didn't like each other and now they're all aligned together. I mean, we've had countries calling me when they saw the—some of the killing with Hamas saying, "We'd love to go in and take care of the situation ourselves."

In addition, you have Israel would go in 2 minutes if I asked them to go in. I could tell them, "Go in and take care of it." But right now we haven't said that. We're going to give it a little chance. And hopefully, there will be a little less violence, but right now, you know, they're violent people. Hamas has been very violent. But they don't have the backing of Iran anymore. They don't have the backing of, really, anybody anymore. They have to be good. And if they're not good, they'll be eradicated.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

*Q.* Were any innocent civilians—

*President Trump.* Not—you.

*Q.* —killed in the Caribbean, Mr. President?

*President Trump.* Not you.

Go ahead, please.

*Q.* Could the—could the Prime Minister weigh in on—more on the processing of rare earths?

*Q.* And can Australia expand the process of rare earths?

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Absolutely, we can. And we have the capacity to do so. And part of this deal is very specific, \$8.5 billion pipeline. There'll be a billion dollars contributed from Australia and the United States over the next 6 months with projects that are immediately available.

There's three groups of projects, ones that are joint activities between Australia and the United States, such as Alcoa.

Secondly is projects that will be U.S. investment, that the U.S. will undertake in Australia, including processing. And then ones that Australia will undertake. Some as well—one of them is Australia, the U.S., and Japan as well. So what we're trying to do here is to take the opportunities which are there.

Australia has had a view for some time, a bit similar to putting America first.

*President Trump.* Right.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Our plan is called "A Future Made in Australia," which is about not just digging things up and exporting them, but how do we make sure that we have, across the supply chains, with our friends being able to benefit, seize those opportunities.

So we certainly see part of what this is about isn't just digging things up, it's also about processing, including the joint ventures between Australia and the United States.

#### *Critical Minerals Supply Chain/Afghanistan/Australia-U.S. Defense Relationship*

*Q.* Can the U.S. and Australia really compete with China? Aren't we decades behind in terms of the development——

*President Trump.* No, no.

*Q.* ——of critical minerals and rare earths?

*President Trump.* You've been reading the wrong newspapers. We're not decades. We're——we are way ahead of China, militarily, the United States. We're way ahead of them in every form of military, other than they're building a lot of ships, and we'll have that started. We'll be catching them on that.

*Q.* When it comes to critical minerals though, Mr. President?

*President Trump.* But when it comes to weaponry, when it comes to—I'll go—right now AI—the big thing is AI. They're building more plants in this country than anybody ever imagined. We're going to have over \$20 trillion of investment for this year. The most we ever had was a tiny fraction of that.

As an example, Biden, who is, you know, the worst President in the history of our country by far, by the way, but they were less than a trillion for 4 years. We're already now breaking \$18 trillion of investment in 18 months—\$18 trillion. No country in history has ever done that.

We're way ahead of China in AI, and we're way ahead of China militarily from the standpoint of the sophisticated weapons. We have weapons that a lot of people don't even know about, and I got them started 4 years ago. I rebuilt the military 4 years ago, fortunately, because Biden didn't do anything but give a piece of it away to Afghanistan.

Fortunately, as much as it sounded like, it was a small part of what I built, but the Afghanistan giveaway was one of the worst. That was probably the most embarrassing day in the history—period in the history of our country. But we have the greatest military, we have the best equipment, we have the best manufacturers of equipments, we have the best weapons.

When you look at our weapons—I've been talking a lot about our weapons. Everybody wants our weapons. But it's just—it's great to be working with Anthony. It's a—great to be working with the people of Australia, because they also—I mean, it's a smaller country, but you have done a fantastic job on weaponry and the kind of things—we do a lot of joint work together. Our militaries work very, very closely together. We've been really an amazing ally, when you think of it.

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Yes.

*President Trump.* Right? There's never been any games. We're just—we strongly committed, and they're strongly committed. There are some games with other countries, but there haven't been games with Australia.

#### *Australia-U.S. Relations*

*Q.* [Inaudible]

*President Trump.* Who do you—where do you come from?

*Q.* I'm from Australia.

*President Trump.* What—who are you with?

*Q.* The Sydney Morning Herald.

*President Trump.* What a nasty guy. Go ahead.

*Q.* Oh, sorry. I was just trying to ask a question.

*President Trump.* Go ahead. Go ahead.

*Q.* On your—in your first term, you worked with two Australian Prime Ministers, Scott Morrison and Malcolm Turnbull. You might remember.

*President Trump.* Right.

*Q.* They were from the same side as politics as you. Mr. Albanese is a different side. Can you tell us a bit more about how it's—what it's like to work with Mr. Albanese compared to those two?

*President Trump.* Well, I got along—I mean, that wouldn't be fair, because, you know, the man on my right has a big advantage. You know that, right? But I think he's doing a really—I think he's doing a really good job, and we've had a very good relationship. I don't want to compare one with the other, but I—I'll tell you this one is—they've got a great—they really have a great Prime Minister.

Okay?

Okay? Was that a good statement?

*Prime Minister Albanese.* Thank you. I'll use it in my ads in '28. [Laughter]

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

*Q.* Mr. President, you spoke with President Putin on Thursday. Did you discuss his ongoing attacks on civilian areas in Ukraine?

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* Did you talk—did you say, "Cut it out"?

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* Did you say, "Show an article of good faith to me"?

*President Trump.* I did. I did. But as you know, most of the people dying are soldiers. The soldiers that are dying in Russia and Ukraine, it's unbelievable—5- to 7,000 a week. Can you believe it?

*Prime Minister Albanese.* It's awful.

*President Trump.* And I look at that, and I say it's pretty amazing. But in addition to that, there are attacks on Kyiv and some of the other places, and it's human lives, but the big number of human lives are soldiers that are being killed on the battlefield—anywhere from 5- to 7,000, sometimes more than that every single week. It's not even believable. It's a bloodbath. It's the worst since the Second World War. The—the worst number of people.

And you know, it doesn't affect us in any way. We don't pay anything because now they pay us for the weapons that they get. The—NATO is paying us for the weapons, as you know. It doesn't affect—I guess you could say that's a positive thing, they pay us, but I'm not interested in that. I did straighten it out.

Biden gave them \$350 billion. Can you believe it? And all they did is get deeper in. It's just—it's a shame. Gave them \$350 billion. A lot of lives were lost. That's a war that would've never happened if I were President. But we do speak about that. I speak about all of the lives, but I do speak about the civilian lives.

*Q.* The First Lady has done such an amazing job on the Ukrainian children——

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Q.* ——who were abducted by Russia. Would you support Senator Lindsey Graham's bill to declare Russia a terrorist state?

And you have within your power—you're the most powerful man on earth. Why don't you just enable Ukraine to finish this war tomorrow?

*President Trump.* Well, if you knew anything about what you were talking about——

*Q.* I do. I do.

*President Trump.* ——you'd be able—you do? I don't think you do, really.

*Q.* And I know——

*President Trump.* I don't think you do, because——

*Q.* They just need your weapons.

*President Trump.* ——it's a little more complicated than that, but it sounds easy. We're in the process of trying to make a deal. If we make a deal, that's great. If we don't make a deal, it will be—a lot of people are going to be paying a big price.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Go ahead.

Quiet, quiet, quiet, quiet.

Go ahead.

*Q.* President Trump, sir—a question to both of you, if you don't mind. So China——

*President Trump.* I love his haircut. [Laughter]

*Q.* Thank you. Thank you. It's fresh cut, sir.

*President Trump.* I'm going to—I'm going to try that. No, I love it. Go ahead. *[Laughter]*

*Critical Minerals Supply Chain/President Xi Jinping of China/Japan/European Union/Former President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.*

*Q.* So, as you all know, China controls 90 percent of the global supply of critical minerals. They have launched attacks on Australian companies, primarily Lynas Rare Earths. How will you—what will happen to China if they don't play fair with this?

*President Trump.* So it's a very interesting question. We have a tremendous power, and that's the power of tariff. And I think that China will come to the table and make a very fair deal, because if they don't, they're going to be paying us 157 percent in tariffs. Right now they're paying 55 to 57 percent.

When I was first President, in first term, we had the greatest economy we've ever had. And as you know, people don't write too much about it, but China paid us hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of money for tariffs.

Biden left it, but he didn't enforce it. He gave exceptions to almost everything. And so, he left the tariffs, but he didn't really collect the numbers that he should have collected and—because he didn't know what the hell he was doing. So now the tariffs are much higher in China than they were before, and they're high on other countries depending on whether or not we like that country or we get along. And that's for national security purposes.

So I made deals with Japan. I made deals with the European Union, the—the whole of Europe, practically, but the European Union. I made deals with a lot of different people.

We have a very fair deal for—I will say, Australia's paying a low number. They do have a— or I'll change it: We have a little bit of an advantage on that one. I told you, the advantage we have is airplanes. We sell a lot of airplanes to them, and they need them. It's a very vibrant place, and people go in and out, and I look forward to going there myself, and I think it's unlikely I'll be taking a ship. *[Laughter]*

*Prime Minister Albanese.* That's a lot—that's a long journey.

*President Trump.* So—but China has treated us with great respect. Now, in the past, they didn't treat other Presidents with great respect. They would take hundreds of billions and even trillions of dollars out of the country, and they would spend it and build their military. Now they're treating us with great respect.

Now, we'll see what happens. I said, "If we don't make a deal, I'm putting on an additional hundred percent on November 1." I think we'll make a deal. They threatened us with rare earths, and I threatened them with tariffs, but I could also threaten them with many other things, like airplanes. You know about airplanes. Because they can't get parts for their airplanes. We build their airplanes. We do a great job. They're largely Boeings, and we could stop the parts.

We did stop the parts actually, when they did the initial threat. That's a—they closed down over 400 of their airplanes, but we don't want to do that.

But we have a much simpler thing. If they don't—if we don't make a deal, we'll charge them a very substantial tariff, and they'll be paying us hundreds of billions of dollars a year, which they're basically paying right now.

We had Presidents that allowed China and other countries to get away with murder. We're not going to allow that, but we're going to have a fair deal. I want to be good to China. I love my relationship with President Xi. We have a great relationship. I believe after we leave South Korea—we'll be there together—we thought that would be a good place to meet. And we're going

to be meeting. I'll be in Malaysia. I'll be in Japan. I'll be in a couple of others. We'll be sort of doing a little bit of a tour.

I've been invited to go to China, and I'll be doing that sometime fairly early next year. We have it sort of set. But I think we're going to have a very good relationship with China. And again, they will threaten us with rare earths. I don't think they're threatening us too much right now, but they could do that.

But I threaten them with something I think is much more powerful, and that's tariffs, because at a certain point, they will not be able to do any business with us. At a certain point, if they pay enough tariffs, it's almost like saying, "We don't do business with you," but it's probably nicer. Saying, "You're going to pay a 158-percent, 157-percent tariff" is a nicer way of saying that we don't want to do business with you.

And if they don't do business with us, I think China's in big trouble, I'll be honest with you. I think China is—I don't know that they even make it. I really do. I believe that they're in big trouble. And I don't want them to be in big trouble. I want them to do great. I want them to thrive. But we have to thrive together. It's a two-way street.

I think when we finish our meetings—and it's going to be a big deal—look, I'm meeting with a lot of other countries, but this seems to be the one that people are very interested in. I think when we finish our meetings in South Korea, China, and I will have a really fair and really great trade deal together.

I want them to buy soybeans. They stopped buying our soybeans because they thought that was punishment, and it is punishment to our farmers, but we're not going to allow that to happen because I made a great trade deal with China, a \$50 billion trade deal, and they were great about it.

They were doing everything that they were supposed to do. And then when Biden came in—you know, I used to call President Xi all the time to say, "Thank you," or "You're not buying enough." In other words, they were supposed to buy. Biden—do you think Biden ever called him? I don't think Biden ever called him. You think Biden lied awake at night thinking about trade with China? He didn't know what he was doing. He was an incompetent President.

We had an incompetent President, but you don't have that anymore. So I think we're going to end up having a fantastic deal with China. It's going to be a great trade deal. It's going to be fantastic for both countries, and it's going to be fantastic for the entire world.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:43 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine; and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. J. Daniel Caine, USAF. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on October 25.

*Categories:* Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, White House; Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : Australia, Prime Minister Albanese.

*Locations:* Washington, DC.

*Names:* Albanese, Anthony; Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Caine, J. Daniel; Hegseth, Peter B.; Morrison, Scott; Phelan, John C.; Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich; Rudd, Kevin M.; Turnbull, Malcolm B.; Xi Jinping; Zelenskyy, Volodymyr.

*Subjects:* Agricultural production, strengthening efforts; Artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies; AUKUS trilateral security partnership; Australia, Ambassador to the U.S.; Australia, Prime Minister; Australia, relations with U.S.; Australia, trade with U.S.; Boeing Co.; China, President; China, trade with U.S.; Critical minerals, supply chain improvements; European Union, trade with U.S.; Gaza, conflict with Israel; Golf; Hamas political-paramilitary organization; Iran, U.S. airstrikes on nuclear facilities; Israel, military operations in Gaza; Japan, trade with U.S.; Joint Chiefs of Staff; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Russia, President; Secretary of the Navy; Secretary of War; South Korea, trade with U.S.; Taiwan, political status with respect to China; Tariffs; U.S. diplomatic efforts, expansion; U.S. military readiness, improvement efforts; Ukraine, international military aid; Ukraine, President; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes; Ukraine, U.S. assistance.

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