

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2026

Remarks at the Shield of the Americas Summit in Miami, Florida

March 7, 2026

President Trump. Well, thank you very much. This has been a pretty wild time, but it's going very well.

Sit down, please.

U.S. Military Operations in Iran

And tremendous progress has been made, as you're probably seeing just by watching. We're doing something. I built the military and rebuilt it and made it really strong in my first administration, along with a lot of other things we did. We had a great first term. And now we're using it. Unfortunately, we have to. But you're seeing how great it is. There's no military like it on Earth, not even close.

And we're doing very well in Iran. You see the result, and it's been amazing. We've knocked out 42 navy ships, some of them very large, in 3 days. That was the end of the navy. We knocked out their air force. We knocked out their communications, and all telecommunications is gone. I don't know how they communicate, but I guess they—they will figure something out. It's not working out too well.

And they're bad people. They're just bad people. When you look at October 7, and beyond October 7, look at all the killing that they've done over the years for 47 years. And this had to be done. They were very close to a nuclear weapon. They would've had one if we didn't do our B-2 hit, Midnight Hammer. They would've had it 8 months ago. They would've had a nuclear weapon. And, you know, they're crazy, and they would've used it. So we did the world a favor.

And they said: "Well, how are you doing on a scale of 0 to 10? How are you doing with the attack?" And I said, "About a 15, I would say, with 10 being the best." But it's something that had to be done, and we're doing it well. And I want to thank everybody involved.

I'll be going—right after this, I'll be leaving for Dover—very sad situation—to greet the families of the heroes coming home from Iran, coming home in a different manner than they thought they'd be coming home. But they're great heroes in our country, and we're going to keep it that way.

There's always—when it comes to war, there's always that, but we're going to keep it to a minimum, I think, Pete. And going to be something—a service that we're really providing not for the Middle East, but for the world.

These were sick people. Very sick people.

Shield of the Americas Summit

This morning I'm honored to welcome distinguished heads of state from across the Western Hemisphere for the first Shield of the Americas summit. And it's something very, very special. Marco's been working on it very hard—so have a lot of other people—because it's a very important place for us. It's nice to be home. It's very, very important.

You know, we go all over the world, 9,000 miles away, 12,000 miles away. I said, "How long is this flight, sir?" "This flight is 19 hours." I said, "Oh, that's great." [*Laughter*] I said—now I have flights that last for 2 hours. I like that better. Much better.

But, on this historic day, we come together to announce a brandnew military coalition to eradicate the criminal cartels plaguing our region. And you have a lot of it. And one of the things—when we were talking backstage, you were telling me the crime, the cartels. And we're knocking the hell out of them where we can. We're going to go heavier.

You saw what we were doing with the boats coming in. The boats—there's not a lot of people coming in by boats anymore. We knocked down drugs coming in by sea. Drugs coming in through water is down 96 percent. We're trying to find out who the other 4 percent are, because I think they're the bravest people in the world. Either that, or they don't watch television, right? *[Laughter]* They're either very brave, or they're not watching.

But we're calling this military partnership the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition. And that's what you need. You have cartels just—they seem to grow in this region unbelievably rapidly. It has to do with drugs, largely.

Earlier this week, here in Miami, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who's right here—Pete, you are fantastic, doing a great job; we're proud of you—and representatives of 17 different nations formally entered this new alliance. The heart of our agreement is a commitment to using lethal military force to destroy the sinister cartels and terrorist networks once and for all. We'll get rid of them.

We need your help. You have to just tell us where they are. We have amazing weaponry, as you probably noticed over the last short period of time.

But I want to thank members of the coalition, most of whom are friends of mine. A few of them I just met, but most of whom are friends, many of whom I endorsed. And they took that endorsement, and they went on to win big. I haven't had a bad endorsement yet, right?

President Javier Gerardo Milei of Argentina. Yes.

President Trump. He says yes. *[Laughter]* He was happy. He was a couple of points down and—

[At this point, President Trump made a sound effect.]

—went up like a rocket ship—right?—in Argentina. But the President of Argentina is here, Javier Milei. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for being here.

President of El Salvador, another friend, Nayib Bukele. You know, he is a man who we've gotten very close to. I saw him as a young man my first term. You were young and handsome. Now you're older and handsome. *[Laughter]* You're older and handsome. But he runs a good operation. That's all I care about, right?

When I first saw him, I said, "He's too young." And then I saw the job he did. I said, "Well, I guess he's not too young." Because I was young and did well. But you've been a great President, and we appreciate the relationship very much.

President of Paraguay Santiago Peña. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa. Daniel, thank you. Thank you, Daniel.

President of Panama. I love that canal. *[Laughter]* José—I think he made the greatest deal in history. He bought it for \$1. One of our brilliant Presidents—ah, ha, ha—I can't sleep over that deal—they gave it to him for \$1. José Raúl Mulino. Where is—do you know you made one of the greatest real estate deals in history? *[Laughter]* Jimmy Carter, one of our—one of our great Presidents.

President of Honduras Tito Asfura. Thank you, Tito. Thank you very much. Great to see you the other day. President of Guyana Irfaan Ali. Thank you. President of Bolivia Rodrigo Paz. Thank you very much. Great people.

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. And I have to be very careful with this because, you know, your word—your first name is very similar to a first name that we have, but fortunately, it's pronounced different. It's Kamla, as supposed to Kamala. *[Laughter]* I like Kamla better in many ways.

And I just want to say thank you very much, but I had to be careful with that first name. I didn't want to get it—I didn't want to get it mixed up because it would ruin your reputation completely. *[Laughter]* Right? I said, "Is this the same pronunciation"—"No, sir. It's a little different." It's "kam," right? "Kam," as opposed to "kom." But we don't like "kom."

President of Costa Rica Rodrigo Chaves, as well as the President-elect of Costa Rica, Laura Fernández Delgado. So thank you very much. Thank you very much.

And the President of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader. And so many of my friends are in the Dominican, including the "Sugar King," right? He is a—he is indeed the Sugar King. He's got a lot of sugar. I don't know if that's good or bad, but he's got a lot of it, right?

But we're grateful to be joined as well by the President-elect of Chile, José Kast. Congratulations. That's an endorsement. Give you a little endorsement. I love when I give endorsements and people win. *[Laughter]* But you know what? They don't lose.

You know, I don't know, I guess it would be illegal. Could you imagine if I could say—they spend millions and millions and millions of dollars on a campaign, they're losing, and they beg me for an endorsement. I give them an endorsement, they win by 30 points, and I get nothing. *[Laughter]* If I could sell that—is there a way? Do we have any of our legal people here? A little—Marco is close enough. Is there a way I can get paid for that, Marco? I'd make a lot.

They spend millions of dollars, and I give it for nothing. I could—even if I put it into the Treasury of the United States, it would be pretty good. Right, Marco? But Marco's saying this is not a good idea. *[Laughter]*

No, but it's an honor to do it. It's an honor to have that power where I can endorse somebody, and even in foreign countries. Here, it was this—we had one in—this week, 124-and-oh, with endorsements. And so that's good.

But now I'm doing foreign countries all of a sudden. They say, "Sir, would you endorse me?" And it's an honor, if I like you. I only do it if I think you're good. You know, if I think you're not good—I've turned down many more than I've accepted. Believe me.

I want to thank Secretary of State Marco Rubio for his leadership in organizing this really important summit. He's fantastic. He's a fantastic Secretary of State.

And thus far—look, we've had the most incredible year of any President, I think, by—you know, I ended eight wars. We're not going to go into it too much today, but what we've done is incredible. And we're going to be—we're going to be doing some incredible things together, because I look at our region, if I can call it that, as being very important. It's been abandoned by the United States for so many years.

You know, they went so far away. They went to these faraway places where they weren't even wanted. And a lot of stupid people. Really stupid people.

But Marco is going to go down, I think, as the best Secretary of State in history. That's my opinion. Now, I'm a little prejudiced because I like him too. But I think he's on his way. So you've done 25 percent. You got 75 percent. He's got 3 years left. So he's got 25 percent under your belt.

So far, you're leading—you're very leading by just about a smidge over a couple of pretty great ones, right? We've had a couple of pretty great ones, right?

But I think he's going to do that. And I think Pete's right there too. If Pete keeps going, he's going to be something too at what he does.

All of the nations in this room share the same priorities: security, prosperity, free commerce, and the rule of law. And you want the rule of law. Sometimes your communities don't let you have it because you got some rough—you got some rough communities, right?

That's why together we're also forming the Shield of Americas, a new organization to advance these shared priorities in our hemisphere.

And we're pleased to be joined as well by Secretaries Pete Hegseth, Scott Bessent. Scott. Thank you very much, Scott. Oh, it has to be a big deal if you're here. Wow. [Laughter] He controls the purse strings of the country.

You know, he goes on television, and he just soothes everybody. He did it yesterday. The prices were going, he—got on. He's a soothing person. He's actually a killer, but I don't want to say that. [Laughter] No, he's a soothing person. He goes on television—right, Pete? I think nobody better.

So we could use him for war every once in a while. You know, soothe. Although we don't really want that kind of a personality for war. We want your personality for war. You're just perfect.

Howard Lutnick. Thank you, Howard. Chris Wright. Kristi Noem.

Along with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, who you all know and you deal with. You deal very successfully. I ask Jamieson all the time: "Can you get more? Can you get more?" He's the king of tariffs, right? But he's very gentle. We want to be very gentle with our friends. Right, Jamieson?

Deputy Secretary of State Chris Landau. Chris. Where is Chris? I haven't seen Chris. He's fantastic. He was an incredible student. He went to the best schools, and he was number one in his class at all times. And Marco saw that and saw the talent he's got, and he said, "That's the guy I want as a deputy." And I heard you're doing a great job. Thank you very much.

Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller. Stephen is—I don't have to tell you anything about Stephen. He—[laughter]. Everyone knows. There's nothing—Stephen, there's nothing I can say. He's fantastic. That's all I can say.

And Senator Bernie Moreno, who's an incredible friend of mine. And he ran a great race. He was not given much of a chance. He was running against a person who was there for a long time and was sort of considered a shoo-in. Right, Bernie? And we knocked him out. We knocked him out. He's trying to make a comeback, but we took him out. And Bernie's done a great job.

For decades, leaders in this region have allowed large swaths of territory in the Western Hemisphere to come under the direct control, and transnational gangs have taken over, and they've run areas of your country. We're not going to let that happen. We'll help you. And bloodthirsty cartels that impose their will through murder, torture, extortion, drug trafficking, bribery, and terror. And some of you are in danger. I mean, you're actually in danger. It's hard to believe.

But we're working with you to do whatever we have to do. We'll use missiles. If you want us to use a missile, they're extremely accurate. Poom, right into the living room. [Laughter] That's the end of that cartel person.

But we'll do whatever you need, if you want. A lot of countries don't want to do that. They say: "Oh, sir, I'd rather not have that. I'd rather not have—I believe they can be spoken to." I don't think so.

Many of them don't want—and that's okay too. You're going to do you. But if you need help, you're going to let us know. Okay?

Many of the cartels have developed sophisticated military operations—highly sophisticated, in some cases. They say they're more powerful than the military in the country. We can't have that. These brutal criminal organizations pose an unacceptable threat to national security, and they provide a dangerous gateway for foreign adversaries in our region.

And we don't want them near our country either. We don't want them to come in. They're cancer. You know? They're cancer, and they—we don't want it spreading.

We have a very strong border. You know, we have a border now where, for 9 months, zero people have been able to come through. It's hard to believe, actually, because we had—we went from 25 million people coming in over the Biden—Sleepy Joe Biden, one of the worst Presidents in history—of the world. He was the worst President in the history of our country, and we've had some pretty bad ones. Recently, we've had some pretty bad ones, but he's the worst.

But he's—he would go down as one of the worst in the world. I'm going to up his category now. *[Laughter]* Horrible, what he did. And what he didn't do was probably worse than what he did.

Every leader here today is united in the conviction that we cannot and will not tolerate the lawlessness in our hemisphere any longer. The only way to defeat these enemies is by unleashing the power of our militaries. We have to use our military. You have to use your military. You can't fight these people with—and you have great police. You have some great police, but they threaten your police. They scare your police. You've got to use your military.

In many cases, our forces have already been working closely with yours. And the United States looks forward to deepening and expanding that cooperation in the months ahead.

And it's so good that we got to know so many of you. I mean, we're—so many. And I'd love to get to your countries at some point. Marco loves going to your countries. He's always at one of these countries. He likes your countries the best. Okay? *[Laughter]* You know?

"Where are you?" "I'm in Chile." "Oh, good. How's Chile doing?" "Good." He likes it. He feels very—we all like him, right?

It helps he has—he's got a language advantage over me, because I'm not learning your damn language. I don't have time. *[Laughter]* I was okay with languages, but I'm not going to spend time learning your language. That much, I won't do.

Just give me a good interpreter. Interpreter: very important. And I know if somebody is good. I may not speak the language, but I know. I had an interpreter recently that wasn't good, talking to a very strong person from a different part of the world. And I could tell, even though I—even though I don't speak the language, I could tell the interpreter was not good.

When you go, "Uh. Uh. Uh." *[Laughter]* When I give a long, flowing, beautiful sentence—and in this case, it was a woman—and she gave it in about one-fourth the time. I said, "Well, their language may be efficient, but"—*[laughter]*—"but it's not that efficient."

And I can also tell when I have great interpreters. Interpreters are very important. You know, you have a bad interpreter, you think you're doing well—"Boy, did I do a good job talking to this one or that? Was I great when I spoke to Putin today? Was I great when I spoke to President Xi? Was I great?" But if the interpreter isn't speaking right or is weak or is ineffective or is just not

good or not interpreting your words correctly—in one case, we had an interpreter who, when she disagreed with what we were saying, she actually changed it. [Laughter] We considered her a Foreign Minister, right?

But no, we—the interpreter is—I talk about it all the time. Interpreters are really important. When you don't speak the language and they don't speak the language, it's—people have no idea. People have no idea how valuable—and I'm on them all the time. People have no idea how valuable a good interpreter is.

But, over the last year, the world has witnessed the supreme power of the United States. We're the most powerful military country in the world. Again, I rebuilt it in my first—I spent so much time rebuilding it. Over a trillion dollars. And now, we just had another budget. We may be going to a trillion and a half dollars.

We're building a thing called the battleship, like in the old days. Remember? We have a Secretary of the Navy, and he suggested, I suggested—I've—always said, "Why don't we have battleships anymore, shooting big bullets instead of, you know, \$3 million rockets?" And they said, "Well, sir, we just don't have them." I—nobody could give me the answer. But we're actually building 10 of them.

And I said, you know—you remember the old ones from—you'd see "Victory at Sea." You remember "Victory at Sea"? And you'd see these ships going through those waves like the waves were nothing, although the waves are pretty powerful. They knock out a lot of territory.

But you'd see these incredible—they're pieces of art. Beautiful—most beautiful—the big battleships of the 1940s, right? Power.

I said, "Well, would we ever want to bring them back?" Because we have some of them. They're museums and other things. And they said, "Sir, the new ship is 100 times more powerful than what we were looking at with those guns in front." It's amazing, right? One hundred times.

I said, "You sure it's not maybe 90 times?" One hundred times more powerful.

And we're building 10 of them—not to use them. We don't want to use them. But by having them, nobody is going to play games. So, you know, it's just good to have them. We don't want to use them.

They'll say, "Ooh, he's very militaristic." I'm the one that ended eight wars. I'm the one that—and we have another one coming, I think. The easiest was that, and that was just—and you know what it is? You would understand this. The hatred between Putin and his counterpart is so great. Okay? It's so great that—you know, Ukraine, Russia, you'd think there'd be a little bit of comradery. There's not. And the hatred is so great. It's very hard for them to get there. It's very, very hard to get there.

So we'll see what happens. But we've been close a lot of times, and one or the other would back out. But we're losing—you know, they're losing—you know, it doesn't really affect us very much because we've got an ocean separating.

I'm doing it as a favor to Europe, and I'm doing it as a favor to life, because they're losing 25,000 souls. Think of that: Every month, 25,000. Last month, 31,000. Both sides, 31,000 people died. Mostly soldiers.

So I have an ability to get those things done, to get—bring people together. And I did great with so many. India-Pakistan, that was going to be a disaster. That was really—that was raging for a number of days.

I did that through trade. I used tariffs and trade. And it was amazing. But we did amazing.

One was 32 years, one was 34, and one was 37 years. And we got it done very quickly. And we'll get this one done too. But the—hatred is—it's—hatred is an amazing—an amazing thing. People do bad things and people don't get things done when the hatred is too great. And that's a lot of it.

Just as we formed a coalition to eradicate ISIS in the Middle East, we must now do the same thing to eradicate the cartels at home. So we did eradicate ISIS.

Now, during the 4 years—we had a rigged election. You probably read about it. Probably heard something. So it gave me 4 years to contemplate and to stage my comeback. I staged big comeback.

They say it was a comeback. I didn't think it was a comeback because I had this—I had the people on my side. So I didn't view it as a comeback. But they did everything possible during that 4 years. Crooked people—they're crooked politicians, dirty cops. They're dirty cops. They did everything possible to make it impossible for me to win, and I won in a landslide.

But during that period of time, I learned a lot. And I—learned how you people—and I saw it so badly, how you're suffering with what's happening with the crime in the region. And I said, "If we ever come back, we're going to eradicate that crime." And I'm going to work with you, and, if you want, we're going to do it. We can do it pretty easily.

As part of our commitment to countering the cartel presence in our region, we must recognize the epicenter of cartel violence is Mexico. The Mexican cartels are fueling and orchestrating much of the bloodshed and chaos in this hemisphere, and the United States Government will do whatever is necessary to defend our national security and to protect the safety of the American people.

No, Mexico—look, it all comes—it's coming through Mexico. And I like the President very much. She's a very good person. She's got a beautiful voice. A beautiful woman, but beautiful voice. "President, President, President." I said, "Let me eradicate the cartels." "No, no, no, please, President."

We have to eradicate them. We have to knock the hell out of them because they're getting worse. They're taking over their country. The cartels are running Mexico. We can't have that. Too close to us. Too close to you. But everything comes in through Mexico, mostly.

At the same time, all of us must recommit to ensuring the law and order within our own nations, and that includes showing zero tolerance for the gang activity. Tremendous gang activity.

In Venezuela, we've got—that's in much better shape than it ever has been. We've developed a great relationship in Venezuela.

The savages who murder and rape with impunity must be permanently removed from society. We must not allow our criminal justice systems to be corrupted so that they protect these criminals and animals at the expense of your people. And for some reason, all over the world, this is a region that has problems that other regions don't have. They have different problems, but they don't have this problem.

The United States—last year, we achieved the largest drop in murder rate in recorded history. We—have the lowest murder rate in 125 years. Hard to believe because, I don't know, it's—you know, we allowed—we got a lot of them out, but we—we allowed through the Biden policies and Obama, who was another terrible President, by the way. He was Barack Hussein Obama. Terrible President. He was a divider. Great divider—I call him "the great divider."

But they allowed a lot of people into our country that shouldn't be here. But, in particular, Biden, because Biden had no idea what he was doing. He had no clue. It was being run by— whoever got near the autopen was running the country. He was the autopen President.

And frankly, they let at least 25 million people come into our country. Some from prison, some from mental institutions, gang members, the heads of gangs, the mentally insane. I'll tell you, people came in from mental institutions and insane asylums, and we took them. We had an open-border policy. It's a policy divided and devised by idiots, but they poured into our country.

So we went from the worst border in history to, by far, the best border. We have the best, strongest border that we've ever had. We have great people that did that job.

By securing our border and cracking down on traffickers and smugglers, we've reduced the fentanyl pouring across our border by 67 percent. And this is in our first year. You know, give me a little more time. We'll do better. Sixty-seven percent, which is a number that's unthinkable. You know, they say if you could do 2 percent, 1 percent—but we got it down 67 percent.

And we got a lot of the murderers out. We had 11,888 murderers allowed in our country with this ridiculous open-border policy that these eggheads put in.

But we're also working closely with you on ending human smuggling and the implementing of the Safe Third Country Agreements, which are very important.

In January, America's armed forces also ended the reign of one of the biggest cartel kingpins of all with the Operation Absolute Resolve to bring outlaw dictator Nicolás Maduro to justice in a precision raid that nobody's ever seen anything like it.

This was in a very powerful military base, fort. And they went in, and they took him out, and they got him out. And people couldn't believe it. They couldn't believe it. We went right into the heart and took him out. And it was nasty. It was about 18 minutes of pure violence. And we took him out.

We lost nobody. Not one person was lost. Not one aircraft or no military equipment. Zero. People—have never seen anything like it. And you're talking about in—into a military base with a lot of soldiers—good soldiers.

Since that operation, we've been working closely with the new President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, who's doing a great job working with us. I mean, she's doing a great job because she's working with us. If she wasn't working with us, I would not say she's doing a great job. In fact, if she wasn't working with us, I'd say she's doing a very poor job. Unacceptable.

[Laughter]

No, but she's doing a great job, Marco, right? And she gets along great with Marco.

And we're taking out tremendous amounts of oil. They're getting—they're making more money now than they've ever made—ever made. We have the big oil companies in. They—they are getting—making more money. We're getting some. They're getting a lot. They're making more money now than they've ever made in the history of their country. Can you imagine? And it's being spent properly. And they're watching it closely.

And I'm pleased to say that this week, we have formally recognized the Venezuelan Government. We've actually legally recognized them.

We have also just reached a historic gold deal—it's called the gold deal—with Venezuela to allow our two countries to work together to facilitate the sale of Venezuelan gold and other minerals.

They have great amounts of gold. They have good land, I tell you. Very good land. But they weren't able to take—the system didn't allow them to take advantage of the value of their land.

As we achieve a historic transformation in Venezuela, we're also looking forward to the great change that will soon be coming to Cuba. Cuba's at the end of the line. They're very much at the end of the line. They have no money. They have no oil. They have a bad philosophy. They have a bad regime that's been bad for a long time.

And they used to get the money from Venezuela. They get the oil from Venezuela. But they don't have any money from Venezuela. They don't have any oil. They don't have anything from—people can't even—they land in Cuba, they can't get gasoline to fly out. They have to leave their planes behind.

And they want to negotiate. And they are negotiating with Marco and myself and some others. And I would think a deal would be made very easily with Cuba.

But for 50 years, I've been hearing—as a little boy, I'd be hearing about Cuba. You know, Cuba's a disaster. But I've been hearing so much about Cuba. But Cuba's in its last moments of life as it was. It will have a great new life, but it's in its last moments of life the way it is.

And—but our focus right now is on Iran. And we'll do that, I would say—what will you do, take about 2 days off, Marco? No, he won't. Maybe an hour. He'll take 1 hour off, and then he'll finish up a deal on Cuba. That will be an easy one.

But it will be the entire region that we're doing that—many of you have come today and they say, "I hope you can take care of Cuba," because you've had problems with Cuba, right? You mentioned. I was surprised, but four of you said, actually: "Could you do us a favor? Take care of Cuba." I'll take care of it. Okay?

So—and as these situations in Venezuela and Cuba should make clear under a new doctrine—and it is a doctrine—we will not allow hostile foreign influence to gain a foothold in this hemisphere. That includes the Panama Canal, which we talked about. We're not going to allow it. And together we'll protect our sovereignty, our security, and our cherished freedom and independence.

And just in finishing up, the nations gathered here today are filled with unlimited potential. You have tremendous potential. It's a great part of the world.

But to fill—to fulfill that tremendous potential, we must smash the grip of the cartels and criminal gangs and—and horrible organizations run by, in some cases, absolute animals and truly liberate our people. And some people are afraid to do it because it's so—they've gotten such a foothold. But I think you can get out of that, and we'll work with you if you need.

With the courage and resolve of the leaders in this room—great leaders—we'll make our nation safer, stronger, richer, and more successful than ever before.

So I want to thank you all very much for coming. I look forward to the incredible progress that's soon to come. You're going to see some incredible things.

And now I'd like to ask Secretary Rubio and Secretary Hegseth to say a few words, and then I'll sign a proclamation formally launching the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition, which is what it is. It's a counter cartel coalition.

And thank you all for being here very much. Appreciate it. Thank you.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio. Well, thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. I want to thank all the leaders that are here today. I'll be very brief.

First of all, Mr. President, thank you for making this region a priority. We've had successive American Presidents say that the western hemisphere is going to be a priority, and they never do it. And the President has made it a personal priority.

He's also a President of action. It's why I believe he will go down as the most—historic figure in—one of the most historic figures in American history and certainly of the last hundred years because of what he has been able to do and is doing right now with the western hemisphere.

Thank you for your bold leadership. It's a—it's an honor to be able to serve in your administration.

And, Mr. President, two points I want to make. The first is we have a lot of allies around the world, and we are grateful for our allies. And the countries represented here today, all 12 of the leaders here, are allies.

But they're more than allies. They're friends. At a time when we have learned that oftentimes an ally, when you need them, maybe may not be there for you, these are countries that have been there for us. And these are leaders that are not just allies, they are friends, and they are always willing to work and cooperate with the United States, and we're grateful for you.

And as you said, Mr. President, these are also countries with extraordinary potential. Some are fulfilling it. Some are well on their way to fulfilling it. And this is important. And we want to be a partner with you in that. We want the world to see that when you are a friend and an ally of the United States, it is a good thing. It's reciprocated. It comes back the other way as well.

And so, the fact the President is here today and making this a priority is so critical.

If I may, because some of these cameras are—cover in Spanish, you all right if I—

President Trump. Good. Go.

Secretary Rubio. Oh, good.

President Trump. Please.

Secretary Rubio. We don't need an interpreter for this one. [*Laughter*]

[*Secretary Rubio spoke in Spanish; no translation was provided.*]

I think I'm a good interpreter. You'll find out in a second, but—

[*Secretary Rubio spoke in Spanish; no translation was provided.*]

Thank you very much. Thank you.

President Trump. Is he better in Spanish or in English? [*Laughter*] I think he's better in Spanish. I mean, he is great.

Pete, please.

U.S. Secretary of War Peter B. Hegseth. Thank you, sir.

Mr. President, I only speak American. [*Laughter*]

Secretary Rubio. That's all right, I only speak Cuban.

Secretary Hegseth. That's—[*laughter*].

Well, Mr. President, it's an honor to be here and to establish, in this hemisphere, peace through strength.

For far too long, our country's gaze was only on borders in far-flung places—not our own border, not our own hemisphere, not the western hemisphere. President Trump has established the Trump corollary of the Monroe Doctrine: the "Donroe" Doctrine.

And the War Department is implementing it as fast as we can. In fact, 2 days ago, Mr. President, we launched—18 countries were signatories to the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition, ACCC, which is not just an organization that's going to hold conferences and release white papers. That's not what we exist to do.

[Secretary Hegseth continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]

Whether it's drug boats or on land, we look—the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition, the A-triple-C, will be a force for good, for peace through strength in this hemisphere.

And we look forward to working with your great countries. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Trump. Thank you, everybody.

Would you like to come up and surround us here? Thank you.

[Music began to play, then stopped.]

They should keep that music going. *[Laughter]* They should keep it going.

Thank you very much.

[President Trump signed a proclamation titled, "Commitment to Countering Cartel Criminal Activity."]

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:33 a.m. at the Trump National Doral Miami golf resort. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Jeffrey R. O'Brien, USA, Capt. Cody A. Khork, USA, CWO 3 Robert M. Marzan, USA, Sgt. 1 Nicole M. Amor, USA, Sgt. 1 Noah L. Tietjens, USA, and Sgt. Declan J. Coady, USA, who were killed in Iranian airstrikes on Port Shuaiba, Kuwait, on March 1; Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago; former Vice President Kamala D. Harris, in her capacity as the 2024 Democratic Presidential nominee; José Francisco "Pepe" Fanjul, vice chairman and president, Flo-Sun and Florida Crystals; U.S. Special Envoy for the "Shield of the Americas" Kristi L. Noem; former Sen. Sherrod C. Brown; President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia; President Xi Jinping of China; U.S. Secretary of the Navy John C. Phelan; President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine; President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo of Mexico; and former President Nicolas Maduro Moros of Venezuela, who was captured, along with his wife Cilia Flores, in a U.S. military operation in Caracas, Venezuela, on January 3 and exfiltrated to the U.S. for criminal processing in New York City. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on March 8.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Shield of the Americas Summit in Miami, FL.

Locations: Miami, FL.

Names: Abinader Corona, Luis Rodolfo; Ali, Mohamed Irfaan; Armor, Nicole M.; Asfura Zablah, Nasry Juan "Tito"; Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Brown, Sherrod C.; Bukele Ortez, Nayib Armando; Chaves Robles, Rodrigo Alberto de Jesus; Coady, Declan J.; Fanjul, José Francisco "Pepe"; Fernández Delgado, Laura; Greer, Jamieson L.; Harris, Kamala D.; Hegseth, Peter B.; Kast, José Antonio; Khork, Cody A.; Landau, Christopher; Lutnick, Howard W.; Maduro Moros, Nicolas; Marzan, Robert M.; Milei, Javier Gerardo; Miller, Stephen; Moreno, Bernie; Mulino

Quintero, José Raúl; Noboa Azin, Daniel; Noem, Kristi L.; Obama, Barack; O'Brien, Jeffrey R.; Paz Pereira, Rodrigo; Peña Palacios, Santiago; Persad-Bissessar, Kamla; Phelan, John C.; Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich; Rodriguez Gomez, Delcy; Rubio, Marco A.; Sheinbaum Pardo, Claudia; Tietjens, Noah L.; Wright, Christopher A.; Xi Jinping; Zelenskyy, Volodymyr.

Subjects: Americas Counter Cartel Coalition; Argentina, President; Bolivia, President; Border security; Chile, President-elect; China, President; Costa Rica, President; Costa Rica, President-elect; Cuba, political and economic stability; Deputy Secretary of State; Dominican Republic, President; Ecuador, President; El Salvador, President; Florida, President's visit; Florida, Shield of the Americas Summit in Miami; Foreign narcotics traffickers; Guyana, President; Honduras, President; Illegal drugs, interdiction efforts; Illegal immigration; India, relations with Pakistan; Iran, U.S. airstrikes on nuclear facilities; Iran, U.S. military operations; Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization; Israel, attacks by Hamas of October 7, 2023; Mexico, counternarcotic efforts; Mexico, President; Pakistan, relations with India; Panama, President; Paraguay, President; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Russia, President; Secretary of Commerce; Secretary of Energy; Secretary of State; Secretary of the Navy; Secretary of War; Suspected drug-trafficking vessels, U.S. airstrikes in Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific; Tariffs; Transnational criminal organizations; Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister; U.S. Special Envoy for the "Shield of the Americas"; U.S. Trade Representative; Ukraine, President; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes; Venezuela, Acting President; Venezuela, oil supply and refining; Venezuela, relations with U.S.; Venezuela, U.S. military capture and exfiltration of President Maduro; White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy.

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