

strides Turkey is making in this regard, not because the Americans or the Europeans want it, but because it's the right thing for the Turkish people. And I encourage further progress in these areas, such as freedom of expression, because it is right, and because we in America have a great stake in your stability, in Turkey's ability to reap the full benefits of the information age and the global economy, in Turkey's full integration in Europe, in Turkey's full success as a modern, prosperous, secular society bridging East and West.

I am proud that we are working as partners with you to build better lives for our citizens, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to represent the people of the United States on this historic trip.

I would like to close by asking my fellow Americans to join me in a toast to President Demirel, the leaders of this organization, and the people of our host nation, Turkey.

*[At this point, the participants drank a toast.]*

*The President.* This is a beautiful painting. Wait, I want to say this. You know, I just bought a new home. *[Laughter]* In my attempt to fulfill the last ambition of my life, I am trying to follow in the steps of Senator Howard Baker and become the husband of a United States Senator. And this will look very good in that home. Thank you very much.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 3:25 p.m. in the Palace Dining Hall at the Imperial Chalet. In his remarks, he referred to President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey; Mustafa V. Koc, chairman, Turkish-U.S. Business Council of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK); former Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker, chairman, American-Turkish Council, and her husband, former Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr.; and Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Demirel.

## Statement on Environmental Review of Trade Agreements November 16, 1999

Today Vice President Gore and I are taking two important steps to ensure that our efforts to expand trade reflect our strong commitment to promoting environmental protection worldwide. America has proved time and again that a strong economy and a healthy environment go hand in hand. The new steps I am announcing today will help ensure that we and other nations do our utmost to protect our environment as we work together to build a growing, prosperous global economy.

First, I have signed Executive order requiring careful assessment and written review of the potential environmental impacts of major trade agreements. These reviews, with full opportunity for public input, will better enable us to fully integrate environmental considerations into the

development of U.S. positions in trade negotiations.

Second, I am issuing a declaration of principles on trade and environment to guide our negotiators in the new round of World Trade Organization negotiations that will begin later this month in Seattle. Through these principles, we will seek to ensure that trade rules continue to be support of environmental protections at home and abroad.

I urge other WTO members to work with us to advance these principles when we meet in Seattle.

NOTE: The Executive order of November 16 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.