

show them that they cannot terrorize the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And we won't. We will not be terrorized. We will not be cowed.

We've got a homeland security that's strong. I want to tell the moms and dads here that we're doing everything we can to find them and disrupt them and stop them, if they happen to try to strike on American soil. We're strong at home. We're active at home. But make no mistake about it; the best homeland defense is to find them and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what our Nation will do.

Now that they got the plane fueled up, I'm heading over to China. Of course, we'll talk about economics and trade. But the main thing that will be on my mind is to continue to rally the world against terrorists; is to remind people that it happened to us, sure, but it could happen to them as well; is to remind them that evil knows no borders, no boundaries, and to remind them that we must take a stand; that those of us who have been given the responsibility of high office must not shirk from our duty; that now is the time to claim freedom for future generations.

The people have struck us. They've tested our mettle and tested our character. But they are going to find that this Nation understands we've reached a pivotal moment in history, where we will plant our flag on the ground, a flag that stands for freedom, and say to anybody who wants to harm us or our friends or allies, "You will pay a serious price, because we're a nation that is strong and resolved and united."

You all are here to serve your country, and your country is grateful. You have confidence in America. But make no mistake about it; America has confidence in you.

Thank you all for such a warm greeting. May God bless. May God bless the men and women who wear our uniform. May God protect this great land. And may God bless America. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:35 p.m. on the ramp of the base's flight line. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. (s) David Lefforge, USAF, commander, 60th Air Mobility Wing; Maj. Gen. John Becker, USAF, commander, 15th Air Force; and Col. James Rubeor, USAF, commander, 349th Air Mobility Wing.

## Statement on Russia's Decision To Close a Military Intelligence Facility in Lourdes, Cuba

*October 17, 2001*

I welcome President Putin's announcement today that Russia will close its military intelligence-gathering facility in Lourdes, Cuba. This decision is another indication that the cold war is over. President Putin understands that Russia and America are no longer adversaries; we do not judge our successes by how much it complicates life for the other country. Instead, both nations

are taking down relics of the cold war and building a new, cooperative, and transparent relationship for the 21st century.

I look forward to meeting with President Putin in Shanghai on Sunday, where we will work to deepen the Russian-American partnership.