

*The President.* Pardon me?

Q. Is this going to be a breakthrough weekend?

*The President.* I don't think there's a particular moment where things—where a relationship breaks through. Obviously, it takes a while. It takes a while to build up the trust necessary for him to know that I intend to keep my word when I say I'm going to do something and vice versa.

It is very important for both of us to convince some parties in our countries that we should no longer harbor suspicions about each other. I will continue to make the case that it is in our nations' interest that Russia and the United States enter into a wide variety of agreements—offensive weapons, talk about the ABM, work on counterproliferation, work on counterterrorism measures. He's been very helpful, by the way, in our efforts in Afghanistan. It's a new day in a relationship that when I was growing up and when we were both growing up was one based upon hostility, mistrust, and anger. And now it's

the exact opposite. We're finding ways to find areas where we can work together for the benefit of both of our countries.

Listen, thank you all very much. It's great to see some familiar faces——

Q. Will you be showing Mr. Putin some Texas dance steps, Mr. President? You'll be showing him some Texas dance steps out there, I'm sure.

*The President.* You know from following me as the Governor, I can cut a pretty mean rug. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:15 p.m. on the tarmac at the Texas State Technical College Waco airport. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his daughters, Katya and Masha; humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry of the United States; and Texas State Senator David Sibley and his wife, Pam. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the President's opening remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Statement on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve November 13, 2001

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) is an important element of our Nation's energy security. To maximize long-term protection against oil supply disruptions, I am directing today the Secretary of Energy to fill the SPR up to its 700 million barrel capacity.

The SPR will be filled in a deliberate and cost-effective manner. This will be done principally through royalty-in-kind transfers to be implemented by the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior.

Our current oil inventories, and those of our allies who hold strategic stocks, are sufficient to meet any potential near-term disruption in supplies. Filling the SPR up to capacity will strengthen the long-term energy security of the United States.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.