

Exchange With Reporters on the Arrival of President Vladimir Putin of  
Russia in Crawford, Texas  
*November 14, 2001*

Q. Are you going to tour today? Are you going to take him around today?

*President Bush.* Yes, we're going to take a tour.

Q. What are you going to do?

*President Bush.* Well, I want to show him some of my favorite spots on the ranch.

Q. Which are?

*President Bush.* Most of it. [*Laughter*]

Q. —it's raining.

*President Bush.* Excuse me?

Q. It's raining.

*President Bush.* The President brought rain, for which we're always grateful in the State of Texas.

Q. Is it great to be back at the ranch?

*President Bush.* I'm thrilled to be here. There is no better gift than rain.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 3:15 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the World Trade Organization's Decision To Launch a New  
Round of Global Trade Negotiations  
*November 14, 2001*

I commend the decision by the world's trading nations meeting in Qatar to launch a new round of global trade negotiations. This bold declaration of hope by the World Trade Organization (WTO) has the potential to expand prosperity and development throughout the world and revitalize the global economy. It also sends a powerful signal that the world's trading nations support peaceful and open exchange and reject the forces of fear and protectionism.

Today's action advances the United States agenda to liberalize world trade—something that will benefit all Americans. By promoting open trade, we expand export markets and create high-paying jobs for American workers and farmers, while providing more choices and lower prices for goods and services for American families.

Today's decision offers fresh hope for the world's developing nations, with whom the United States worked closely in crafting an agenda for trade negotiations. It reflects our common understanding that a new

trade round can give developing countries greater access to world markets and lift the lives of millions now living in poverty. In addition, the WTO meeting affirmed the commitment of all nations to help end the scourge of health pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria by highlighting rules governing access to lifesaving medicines.

I also commend the historic decision to welcome into the WTO the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, united in their commitment to expand shared rules and opportunity to all members. I thank Ambassador Zoellick, Secretary Veneman, and Secretary Evans for their skill in helping WTO members reach this accord, as well as the select corps of U.S. Government negotiators who assisted them.

The WTO leadership, particularly Director-General Moore, did a superb job of laying the groundwork for the ministerial. I also thank the Government of Qatar, the

WTO Ministerial chairman Finance Minister Kamal, and the people of Qatar for being model hosts and doing so much to achieve this successful outcome.

NOTE: The statement referred to WTO Director-General Mike Moore; and Finance Minister Youssef Hussein Kamal of Qatar.

Remarks on the Rescue of Humanitarian Aid Workers Imprisoned in Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford  
November 14, 2001

*The President.* Good evening. Today we've got incredibly good news. Our United States military rescued eight humanitarian workers who had been in prison in Afghanistan.

I'm really proud of our Armed Forces, and I'm also thankful for the folks in Afghanistan who helped with this rescue. There have been a lot of people praying for the eight—eight innocent folks. Particularly interesting for me, since I'm here in Crawford and the two Americans were from Waco. And I know a lot of the Waco citizens have been in deep prayer that they be rescued, and their prayers were answered.

I'm thankful they're safe. I am pleased with the way our military has conducted its operations, and I am glad to report to the American people this chapter of the Afghan theater has ended in a very positive and constructive way.

Q. Sir, did the rescuers encounter any resistance?

*The President.* You're going to have to talk to the Secretary of Defense about that.

Q. Were they rescued or turned over by the Taliban?

*The President.* Well, I think Secretary Rumsfeld will be making a statement. We're calling it a rescue. They have been helped by—I know the International Red Cross have been involved, and they were flown to safety by U.S. troops.

Q. Where are they now?

*The President.* In Pakistan.

Q. Sir, is it your understanding that this was an operation where our forces had to go in and extricate them?

*The President.* No, I don't think it was a mission of that—it was set up, as I understand it. In other words, there was—people on the ground were—facilitated the ability of our troops to move in and put them on a chopper and bring them to safety.

I have been—I had spent a lot of time worrying about all eight, particularly the two young ladies. I was worried that—about the reports that perhaps the enemy would put them in a house and then, for whatever reason, would encourage that house to get bombed. I was worried for their safety. We had thought of different ways in which we could extricate them from the prison they were in. And there were some people on the ground that helped, including the International Red Cross, and our military responded. And it's great—

Q. How soon will you be able to speak to them or see them, sir?

*The President.* I'm not sure. The good news is, they'll be home for Thanksgiving. And I would obviously—if they come back to the States or are in a position where I can call, I'd love to call them, and most of all, tell their parents that I can imagine how they feel, how thrilled they are that their daughters are safe.

Q. Other than the Red Cross, who else—

*The President.* I'm not sure yet, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. I think