

Remarks in Knoxville on the Middle East Situation April 8, 2002

Let me say one thing before I leave. First of all, I meant what I said to the Prime Minister of Israel. I expect there to be withdrawal without delay. And I also meant what I said to the Arab world, that in order for there to be peace, nations must stand up, leaders must stand up and condemn terrorism, terrorist activity.

There is a mutual responsibility to achieve peace, and it's going to require leadership on both sides. And the United States is firmly committed to achieving peace and is firmly committed—I am firmly

committed to what I expect from both parties.

I repeat, I meant what I said about withdrawal without delay, and I mean what I say when I call upon the Arab world to strongly condemn and act against terrorist activity.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. at the Knoxville Police Department Training Facility following a tour of the Citizens Police Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks on the Citizens Corps in Knoxville April 8, 2002

The President. Thank you all so very much. I'm sure glad to be back in Knoxville, Tennessee. I want to thank you for your warm welcome. I want to thank you for your hospitality. And I want to thank you all for coming today to give me a chance to talk about some—to talk about the future of this great country and why I'm optimistic about the future of this great country and why I'm so proud to be an American, to be the President of this great country.

It makes sense to come to the Volunteer State to talk about the need for our citizens to help each other. I can understand why the foes of the University of Tennessee dread hearing “Rocky Top.” [*Laughter*] I mean, it kind of fired me up, standing behind the—[*applause*]. It reminds me of that great volunteer spirit. Of course, in Texas, we really appreciate those Tennessee volunteers coming down to help us out.

And I appreciate the Citizens Police Academy I went to today. It shows the best of your city. You have a great mayor

working with a really fine police chief, who are pooling the resources, who are providing an avenue, an outlet for people who care about your community, a place for them to come and learn the skills necessary to help protect the good people of Knoxville, should an emergency arise.

I've come to highlight what works, so others around the country, if they're interested—

[*At this point, there was a disturbance in the audience.*]

The President. —if you're interested in doing what is right—to encourage your citizens to become involved. And so I want to thank the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, for showing Americans—for showing Americans how best to help their communities. [*Applause*] Thank you all.

I also want to thank the mayors and county officials from cities from around our country. I had the honor of flying over from Washington today with the fine Mayor of Washington, DC, my friend Tony Williams. I also was with Mayor Jim Hahn