

The President's Radio Address *May 25, 2002*

Good morning. As you hear this, I am in St. Petersburg, Russia, in the middle of a 7-day trip to Europe. I've come to Europe to reaffirm our close ties with important allies, to talk about the next stages of the war on terror, and to open a new chapter in our relationship with Russia.

In this last century, the conflicts of Europe led to war and suffering for America. Today, Europe is growing in unity and peace, and that benefits our country. The nations of the European Union have made strong contributions to the war on terror. And the volume of our annual trade and investment relationship is nearly \$2 trillion, helping workers, consumers, and families on both continents.

Germany, which I visited earlier this week, has emerged from a troubled history to become a force for good. German police and intelligence officials are helping in the war on terror. In Afghanistan, German troops have served and died beside our own. Speaking in Berlin, I thanked the German people for their support and sacrifice and talked about the challenges that still lie ahead.

Here in Russia, President Putin and I are putting the old rivalries of our Nation firmly behind us with a new treaty that reduces our nuclear arsenals to their lowest levels in decades. After years of planning for war, Russia and the United States are building a friendship based on shared interests, fighting terrorism, and expanding our trade relationship. After centuries of isolation and suspicion, Russia is finding its place in the family of Europe, and that is truly historic.

The partnership of America and Russia will continue to grow based on the founda-

tion of freedom and the values—the democratic values we hold dear. Free nations are more peaceful nations, and the spread of liberty strengthens America.

On the rest of my trip, I'll travel to Paris and then to Normandy, France, for Memorial Day, to honor the soldiers who in 1944 gave their lives so that America, France, and all of Europe could one day live in peace and freedom. I will visit Rome for a summit that will forge new ties between the NATO Alliance and Russia. I'll meet with the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, whose message of peace and social justice is particularly urgent at this time.

In two World Wars, the New World came to the rescue of the Old, and America became a European power. Now this continent is closer to being whole, free, and at peace than anytime in its history. We must finish this job, inviting a new Russia to be our full partner. And together, we must face the challenges of the world beyond Europe and America, terrorism, poverty, and evil regimes seeking terrible weapons. Europe and America share common dangers and common values. We have the opportunity and the duty to build a world that is safer and better.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:55 a.m. on May 24 at the Marriott Grand Hotel in Moscow, Russia, for domestic broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia

May 25, 2002

President's Visit to Russia

Q. Mr. President, allow me to ask you—[*inaudible*—summarize results of your—[*inaudible*]. And the second part of that question, the expectation of the Moscow summit—how do you think—

President Bush. Well, first, the hospitality has been magnificent. The time we spent last night with the Putins in their beautiful home was very relaxing for Laura and me. It gave us a great chance to see how the Putins live, a very good sense of their values. I think the thing that struck me the most was how they have raised their daughters. They've got two beautiful daughters who are incredibly talented young ladies. It is clear their mom and dad love them a lot, and that was impressive to Laura and me.

The other good piece of news is, I got to go actually run outside—[*laughter*]—which is a difficult thing for me to do when I'm on the road and in Washington as well. I ran on beautiful grounds; it's such a spectacular piece of property. And then we had a wonderful breakfast—special Russian foods. It's been a wonderful, relaxing experience.

I was very touched that the President took time yesterday, after going to the Kremlin—after going to Red Square, to take us to his office. And I thought it was a great personal touch; that was important, to see the private side of this man's life. It meant a lot.

Secondly, I think the summit was—met expectations; it met my expectations. I hope it met the President's expectations. We not only signed a very important treaty, we signed a—you know, a very important protocol of how our relations ought to go forward, and I'm really glad that—I'm glad that all the hard work on both sides has

paid off. And this will be good for the Russian people. This agreement will be good for the people of Russia, and it'll be good for the people of America.

You know, at the St. Petersburg cemetery today, the lady who gave us a tour spoke about peace and how it was important for everybody who walked those hallowed grounds to remember the ravages of war and to remember the importance of peace. And I explained to her that this visit was a visit of peace, where we cast aside the old ways of suspicion and now embrace peace.

Sorry about the interpreter. [*Laughter*]

Q. [*Inaudible*]—interpretation.

President Bush. Okay. Well, good luck. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, a question was asked in Russian, and no translation was provided.*]

President Vladimir Putin of Russia. As far as the staying of Mr. President and his wife in our home yesterday, I would like you to know two things. For one thing, our personal relations to—have been greatly strengthened. They're very happy to know that I'm dealing with very honest and upward and straight people. That is one.

And then there is something else, which is by no means a political thing. Yesterday, when we had our dinner and I was treating my guests, of course, to the Russian caviar, and I told him how some of the caviar is produced. The experts would take the fish and open up the fish and then take the caviar and then throw out the fish again—and throw it back into the water. [*Laughter*] Everybody was laughing, thinking that I was really inventing things on the spot, something really improbable. [*Laughter*] But I was trying to convince them—I was really trying to tell them that