

Statement on the Tel Aviv and West Bank Terrorist Attacks *July 17, 2002*

I offer my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those killed and to the wounded in the homicide bomb attack today in Tel Aviv and the attack yesterday in the West Bank. The American people and I condemn these despicable acts of terror.

Once again, terrorist violence directed against Israelis has taken innocent life. Peace cannot be built on a platform of violence against innocents.

These terrorist acts are also attacks on our efforts to restore hope to the Palestinian people. There is now broad international consensus—as evidenced by the meetings this week in Washington and New York—on the need to support Palestinian reform, address the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people, and restore momentum toward a two-state solution. As I said on June 24, the hopes of a few cannot be allowed to hold the hopes of many hostage.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland *July 17, 2002*

Thank you all. Mr. President and Madam First Lady, it's a great privilege for Laura and I to host you here in the White House. Tonight's dinner is a small way of saying *dziękuję* for the warm hospitality you showed us last year in Warsaw.

Today, Poland and the United States are meeting the challenges of our times, sustained by bonds of kinship, culture, and commerce that unite our peoples. Two centuries ago, Poles fought for America's independence. Before and since, thousands of American communities have been enriched by the energies of millions of Poles who came here to settle.

Mr. President, tomorrow we'll travel to Michigan to visit one of those communities. But pride requires me to point out that the oldest permanent Polish settlement in America can be found in my home State. In the fall of 1854, more than 100 Polish families traveled to the prairies of south Texas, seeking greater freedom and opportunity. They arrived at their destination on Christmas Eve, and they christened their

new settlement Panna Maria, or Virgin Mary. The town is still there, a living symbol of our common ties.

Just as Poles keep contributing to America's vitality, Poland keeps contributing to the vitality of the entire world. Poland's opposition to Soviet tyranny inspired half a continent and helped bring down an evil empire. And the passion for human dignity and iron integrity of a Polish Pope has added to the momentum of freedom around the globe. Freedom did not have to be imported into Poland. It is found naturally in the rhythm of every Polish heart, a commitment of conscience and faith stronger than the brutality of conquerors or the official lies of oppressors.

In 1989, Poles on all sides of the ideological divide made an historic decision to build a society based on democracy and human rights and the rule of law. Two years later, more than 100 political parties participated in Poland's parliamentary elections, including one party called the Beer Lovers' Party. We're watching to see how