

into harm's way, that person deserves the best training, the best pay, the best equipment possible. And Mr. President, this significant increase, the largest since Ronald Reagan was the President, shows the world, shows our friends, and as importantly, shows the enemy that the United States is a determined, resolved nation. It doesn't matter how long it takes. There are no calendars on our desks in Washington that say, by such-and-such a moment we've got to quit. That's not how we think, Mr. President, and you know that. The increase in the defense budget says that we're in this for the long haul, that we owe it to a lot of people to be patient and resolved.

Mr. President, I'm telling you that this country is united. We understand this isn't a Republican war, a Democratic war. This is a war that will test the soul and conscience and strength of the American people. And Mr. President, America will meet the test.

We are united. We're a united country, and we're united with Poland. We will not permit the future to be defined by fear and chaos and hatred. We will define a future of greater development of democracy and a future of tolerance. We'll stand together, and, make no mistake about it, we will defeat global terror.

When I spoke to the faculty and students at Warsaw University last year, I said the question no longer is what others can do for Poland, but what America, Poland, and all of Europe can do for the rest of the world. Working together, we will build greater prosperity and greater hope to people of our respective nations and people all across the globe.

Poland has a leader it can trust. He's a good man. He's a man I'm proud to call friend. I'm proud to bring him to the great State of Michigan. I'm proud to introduce him to you. Ladies and gentlemen, President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Athletics Center at Oakland University. In his remarks, he referred to President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland, and his wife, Jolanta Kwasniewska; Gov. John Engler of Michigan, and his wife, Michelle; Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick of Detroit; Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr., of Rochester; Mayor Pat Somerville of Rochester Hills; baseball Hall of Fame member Stanley F. Musial; and Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kwasniewski.

Remarks at a Luncheon With Polish American Leaders in Troy, Michigan July 18, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for your warm welcome. My fellow club members—[laughter]—thank you all for—

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

The President. Yes, sir, thanks. We—the President and I were just in the neighborhood, looking for a meal. [Laughter] So I just said, “Why don’t we stop over? I’m

a member of a club in the area.” [Laughter] Stan, thanks for remembering my membership, and thanks for feeding us.

I appreciate you all coming out to greet my friend and a friend of America, the President of Poland, a fine leader and a fine gentleman.

I want to thank Stan and Sylvia. I want to thank all the folks who put on the dinner or—we call it “dinner” in Texas—lunch here in Michigan. And I want to thank

my fellow Americans for coming out to say hello.

We had a wonderful dinner last night in Washington. We all wore our black ties. I rented mine right around the corner. [Laughter] But it was a wonderful occasion. And as much as I loved it last night, I was really looking forward to coming with the President here to Michigan, because there's a lot of great—there's a lot of great Americans who happen to be from Polish descent living here, and I thought it was a perfect place for him to come.

I want to thank Cardinal Maida for coming. He was—he came to dinner last night with us, and he jumped on Air Force One. We found plenty of room for him. [Laughter] But he's such a—such a dignified human being, and I'm proud to call him friend. And thank you for your leadership, sir.

I want to thank the Englers, our friends the Englers, the great Governor and the first lady of the State of Michigan. They've been our friends for a long time. I know the Lieutenant Governor is here. I appreciate you being here, Dick. Thank you for coming, Dick Posthumus. Candice Miller, the secretary of state, I appreciate you being here.

We've got our Ambassador from Poland with us, Christopher Hill. He's doing a fine job. Chris, thank you for being here.

We've got a great delegation from the Polish Government with us, scattered throughout, I guess. Mr. Minister, thank you for coming. I appreciate you all being here.

I want to just tell you right quickly that America has got a strong, strong friend in Poland. The Polish Government and the Polish people are—they understand what we went through. They understand—they've had a history of people wanting to take away their freedoms too. See, we share that common bond.

And they also understand that we owe it to our children and we owe it to future generations beyond our children to hold people to account, to hold the killers to account, to bring the killers to justice in order to defend our freedoms. And that's what we're going to do.

Some predicted that the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more the American people would grow weary or kind of forget what happened. And Mr. President, you need to know that's not the case—that's not the case. Anybody attacks us and attacks our freedom, we don't forget that. And therefore, Mr. President, you're a guest in a country that is united and strong and resolved, resolved to keep our coalition together and resolved to defend our freedom, no matter what the cost. And Poland understands that, and for that we are grateful.

And so it's been our privilege the last 2 days to welcome the First Lady and the President, President Kwasniewski, here to the United States of America. It's been a great trip, and it's a chance for us to—chance for me to introduce him to you, my fellow Americans.

Mr. President, you're among some of the finest we have in our country, the good Polish Americans of the State of Michigan.

Would you please welcome the President of Poland.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:21 p.m. at the American-Polish Cultural Center. In his remarks, he referred to Stanley Grot, president, American-Polish Cultural Center, and his wife, Sylvia; Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit; Gov. John Engler of Michigan, and his wife, Michelle; and Jolanta Kwasniewska, wife of President Kwasniewski. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kwasniewski.