

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. at Dunbar House. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by

an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **G–8 Statement on Sudan** *June 10, 2004*

We, the Leaders of the G–8, warmly welcome the May 26 signing by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) of protocols on Power Sharing, Abyei, and on the Two Areas (of Southern Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains). We urge the parties to reach a final and comprehensive agreement which includes a timetable and security arrangements as quickly as possible. We hope that this agreement and its faithful implementation will end one of the world’s most painful conflicts and begin a new era of Sudanese peace and prosperity.

We also wish to express our grave concern over the humanitarian, human rights, and political crisis in Darfur. We welcome the N’jamena ceasefire agreement of April 8, and the announcement on May 20 by the Government of Sudan that restrictions on humanitarian access will be eased. However, there are continuing reports of gross violations of human rights, many with an ethnic dimension. We call on all parties to the conflict to immediately and fully respect the ceasefire, allow unimpeded humanitarian access to all those in need, and create the conditions for the displaced to

return safely to their homes. We call especially on the Sudanese government to disarm immediately the “Janjaweed” and other armed groups which are responsible for massive human rights violations in Darfur. We call on the conflict parties to address the roots of the Darfur conflict and to seek a political solution.

We support the African Union as it assumes the leading role in the monitoring mission which is now being sent to the Darfur region to supervise the cease-fire agreement.

We pledge our countries’ assistance in ending the conflicts in Sudan and in providing humanitarian aid to those in need. We call on all parties to the conflicts in Sudan to commit themselves to respecting the right of all Sudanese to live in peace and dignity.

We look to the United Nations to lead the international effort to avert a major disaster and will work together to achieve this end.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

## **G–8 Statement: Gaza Withdrawal and the Road Ahead to Middle East Peace** *June 10, 2004*

The G–8 welcomes the prospect of Israeli withdrawal from all Gaza settlements and from parts of the West Bank, following

the Israeli Cabinet decision to endorse Prime Minister Sharon’s initiative. The G–8 looks forward to the implementation of

this decision in 2005, recalling the Quartet statement of 4 May that it “welcomes and encourages such a step, which should provide a rare moment of opportunity in the search for peace in the Middle East.” The G-8 hopes that this disengagement initiative will stimulate progress towards peace in the region, the realization of Palestinian national aspirations and the achievement of our common objective of two states, Israel and a viable, democratic, sovereign and contiguous Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

The G-8 views the Quartet Roadmap as the way forward towards a comprehensive settlement and calls on all parties to abide by their obligations under the Roadmap. The G-8 countries will join with others in the international community, led by the Quartet, to restore momentum on the Roadmap, to enhance humanitarian and economic conditions among the Palestinian people and to build democratic, transparent and accountable Palestinian institutions. We will also work to help ensure security and stability in Gaza and the areas of the West Bank from which Israel withdraws. We call on both sides to end all acts of violence.

In furtherance of these goals, the G-8 calls upon the Quartet to meet in the region before the end of this month, engage with Israeli and Palestinian representatives and set out its plans for taking forward in practical terms its declaration of May 4.

We support and commend all efforts, including those by Egypt, to resolve critical

security issues relating to Gaza, and urge that this important work continue. We urge and support the rebuilding and refocusing of Palestinian security services in accordance with the Roadmap, so that they enforce the rule of law, mount effective operations against all forms of terrorism, and report to an empowered Interior Minister and Prime Minister.

We believe the important work of the Local Aid Coordinating Committee to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank must continue. We suggest that preparations should begin now for a meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee with the aim of revitalizing the Palestinian economy. We welcome and encourage international support for the World Bank-established Trust Fund as an accountable and transparent mechanism for receipt of international assistance. We also welcome plans of the Palestinian Authority to hold municipal elections beginning at the end of the summer, and believe that the Task Force on Palestinian Reform should meet soon to assist in preparations to assure that these and subsequent elections will be fair and transparent, and serve as the building block of democratic reform.

The G-8 welcomes the international conference on UNRWA in Geneva and supports close coordination between all groups involved in international assistance.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

## The President's News Conference in Savannah, Georgia June 10, 2004

*The President.* Thank you all. Thanks for coming. We just completed a very successful summit. The nations of the G-8 are united in our desire to help bring stability and democracy to Iraq. We came together

to support reform in the broader Middle East. We pledged to work together to build a more secure, peaceful, and prosperous world.