

safety of our food supply, and deployed advanced environmental detectors under the BioWatch Program to provide the earliest possible warning of a biological attack.

The threat of bioterrorism has brought new challenges to our Government, to our first-responders, and to our medical personnel. We are grateful for their service. Not long ago, few of these men and women could have imagined duties like monitoring the air for anthrax or delivering antibiotics on a massive scale. Yet, this is the world as we find it. This Nation refuses to let our guard down.

Tomorrow the 9/11 Commission will issue its findings and recommendations to help prevent future terrorist attacks. I look forward to receiving the report. I will continue to work with the Congress and State and local governments to build on the homeland security improvements we have

already made. Every American can be certain that their Government will continue doing everything in our power to prevent a terrorist attack. And if the terrorists do strike, we'll be better prepared to defend our people because of the good law I sign today.

It's my honor to invite the Members of the Congress to join me as I sign the Project BioShield Act of 2004. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:43 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission). S. 15, approved July 21, was assigned Public Law 108-276.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Adrian Nastase of Romania and an Exchange With Reporters *July 21, 2004*

President Bush. There will be two opening statements, one by me, one by the Prime Minister. I'll call upon a member of the American press. The Prime Minister will call somebody from the Romanian press. And then we'll do that one more time.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. We've just had a very good visit. It's the kind of visit that friends would have. We talked about our relationship. I complimented Romania and the Prime Minister's understanding that we need to work together to fight terror. We talked about the need to continue to work together to spread freedom and, therefore, peace in troubled parts of the world. And I want to thank him very much for his understanding and his vision.

We talked about economic ties. He asked if it would be possible to spread the word

that Romania is a good place to invest, and I told him that because the country makes the right decisions, that American companies will take a look at Romania. Trade is up, which is good for Romanian people and for the American people. There is commerce going back and forth, which is a positive development.

I congratulated the Prime Minister on Romania's role at the United Nations. I think he handled the Presidency very well, and we appreciate that very much.

So it's been a very good visit. And I'm glad you're back, and I look forward to further discussions with you.

Prime Minister Nastase. Thank you very much, Mr. President. It's good to be back. Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. It is, by the way, the first time that I've been here representing an ally of the

United States. And I am very proud to come here to confirm to the President our continuous support for fighting together terrorists in the world and also our support for the vision of President Bush, not only on general issues but very specifically on a very complex process of changes in Iraq.

I had the honor to chair the Security Council during the Romanian Presidency, in New York. And, well, I briefed the President with major decisions, prospects, possibilities which are now offered for a wise political decision concerning Iraq. Reconstruction, stabilization, political development are the keywords for the future of Iraq. And we want to encourage the Iraqi people to take the ownership of their own choices.

Well, I briefed the President also on regional developments. I briefed the President with some of the developments on the continuous reforms that we are making in Romania. But also, well, I wanted to assure him that we are interested in opening more transparent procedures and, well, better integrity standards for civil servants and politicians.

I think this is part of the end of the transition in a country which suffered a lot but where there is a huge willingness to understand what can make us speed up the process of modernization. And we count very much on President Bush, on his colleagues, and also on the American businessman.

It was also very important to discuss about what happens now in areas in, like, the Black Sea, the Balkans. And I offered the President a five-star location for military bases, and there will be a decision on that very soon.

Mr. President, may I say also that the honor for us, being here—it's a great privilege, a great honor. We remember with great pleasure your visit to Bucharest and the rainbow speech and the gathering of more than 200,000 people.

Thank you very much again.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Okay, Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

Alleged Mishandling of Classified Documents by Former National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. President Clinton suggested that perhaps politics was behind the disclosure of the Sandy Berger investigation. Do you have anything to say about that? And also, when did you learn about this probe?

President Bush. I'm not going to comment on this matter. This is a serious matter, and it will be fully investigated by the Justice Department.

Q. When did you learn, sir, if I may?

President Bush. I'm not going to comment on it. It's a very serious matter that will be fully investigated by the Justice Department.

Prime Minister Nastase. Romanian Public Television.

Romania-U.S. Economic Relations

Q. Mr. President, please, you said something about improving of economic relations between Romania and the U.S. Could you be more specific on that issue, please?

President Bush. Relations improve as market conditions improve inside Romania. In other words, American businesses look for places to invest capital where they can get a reasonable rate of return. American businesses like environments where there's transparency and strong anticorruption rules, where people—where the workforce is well educated and hard-working.

And the Prime Minister and I talked about those ingredients. He said he's had some good visits with business leaders here in America. But those are decisions, in our country, that are made apart from Government. In other words, each individual business will make that decision. They are investment decisions in Romania apart from the offices of Government. And that's what

the Prime Minister understands. And as he said, he had some good visits today. I'm sure he'll brief you on those visits later on.

Caren [Caren Bohan, Reuters].

*National Commission on Terrorist Attacks
Upon the United States*

Q. Your advisers were meeting today with the Chairmen of the 9/11 Commission.

President Bush. Yes.

Q. In light of what you know now, do you think the attacks were preventable? And also, do you plan to meet personally with the Commissioners to discuss their findings and recommendations?

President Bush. First of all, I haven't talked to my advisers who have met with the Commission yet. I will later on. Secondly, I am going to meet with, as I understand it, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission. So I haven't had a chance to fully see—read that which they have developed. I look forward to it. This is a—I've always said this is an important Commission.

And the main reason why is, is because a President and a Congress must have the best possible intelligence to make good decisions about how to protect America and our friends and allies. We've spent a lot of time today talking about counterterrorism or counterproliferation. And the best way to succeed in counter—those efforts is to share intelligence. And therefore, we need to have good intelligence. And the main recommendations, as I understand it, from the 9/11 Commission will be as how best to structure the intelligence agencies.

Again, I haven't seen the report. I hope they talk about more human intelligence, because human intelligence is one of the most effective ways for us to gather intelligence in the first place. I hope they talk about it—and I suspect they will—about using modern technologies to better listen and see events taking place so that we can protect ourselves. And then, of course,

there needs to be a full discussion about how best to coordinate the different intelligence gathering services here in the country.

Let me say one other thing about the 9/11. I told the Commissioners right here in the Oval Office that had we had any inkling whatsoever that terrorists were about to attack our country, we would have moved heaven and Earth to protect America. And I'm confident President Clinton would have done the same thing—any President would have.

So anyway, I'm looking forward to the report. I'm glad—they've done a lot of good work, and it's going to be very useful for the country to listen to what they have to say.

Upcoming Romanian and U.S. Elections

Q. Thank you, sir. Question for President Bush. Sir, in both United States and Romania, you have elections this autumn. It might be four possibilities: Either you win and Mr. Nastase is winning; either you both lose; either one of you is winning, the other one is losing.

President Bush. Right.

Q. Sir, which one of these four possibilities represents the biggest disadvantage for Romania? [Laughter]

President Bush. Well, let me answer you this way: I am going to win. And the Prime Minister told me he is going to win. And therefore, the other three possibilities you've outlined are not going to happen. The interesting thing is, is that here we are talking about elections in Romania. That's what I was thinking during this discussion, that we—a person standing for election in Romania and the United States President are now talking about what it means to campaign, a conversation which would not have been taking place 20 years ago.

You know, I'll never forget my trip to Bucharest, at the rainbow speech. It was one of the most moving experiences of my Presidency. And the reason why was that

the rainbow itself, that appeared in the midst of a rainstorm in front of 200-plus-thousand people, ended right behind—from my vision, ended right behind the place where the tyrant Ceausescu gave his last speech. It was a very powerful message. It moved me deeply during the moment. And it still moves me to think that there was a powerful message being delivered by nature, to the point where I remember turning back to the people of Romania and said, “God is smiling on Bucharest.” And I meant that.

And part of my beliefs, Mr. Prime Minister, is that one of the great universal val-

ues of the world is that men and women deserve to be free. And here we are talking about an election voted on, in your country and mine, by free people.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:04 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas H. Kean, Chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, Vice Chairman, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission).

Remarks at the President’s Dinner July 21, 2004

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming. Gosh, thanks for the warm welcome. It is really good to be with you all tonight. There’s nothing like being the President at the President’s Dinner. [Laughter] And with your help, I look forward to being your guest next year as well.

I want to thank Tom Reynolds, who is my good friend, for his kind introduction. I appreciate the organizers of this fantastic dinner. Thank you all for coming. We’re here for a really good cause, and that is to make sure Denny Hastert remains Speaker of the House and Bill Frist majority leader of the Senate. It’s not only a worthy cause; it is an important cause. The stakes of the country depend upon their leadership, their continued leadership. Plus, they’re really good people.

I’m sorry that Laura is not with me tonight.

Audience member. Aw-w-w!

The President. Yes, I know. She is—she’s camping. [Laughter] But you know something? I am one lucky man that Laura said yes when I asked her to marry me. She’s a great First Lady. There’s a lot of reasons

why I think I ought to be given 4 more years, but perhaps the most important one is so that Laura will be the First Lady for 4 more years.

I want to thank George Allen and Lamar Alexander for representing the Senate at this dinner. Thank you for your strong leadership. And I appreciate Bob Ney as well and Tom Reynolds for representing the House at the dinner and helping to raise the money. These men did a fine job. I also am proud to recognize my fellow Texan, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, Tom DeLay. Thank you for coming, sir.

I appreciate all the dinner hosts who are here at the table. It kind of looks like the old politburo—[laughter]—doesn’t act like the old politburo.

I want to thank all the Members of the Congress who are here. I’m proud to work with you. And thank you for representing our country with such dignity and class.

I want to thank Secretary Ann Veneman, Secretary Elaine Chao, Secretary Tommy Thompson, for coming tonight. And thank