

President, in person, I come to the realization that there indeed is no difference between our two sides with regard to the basic principles. In fact, we're in full and perfect agreement on the basic principles. And whatever problem arises in the course of our negotiations and talks, we will be able to work them out under close consultations.

There are, admittedly, many people who worry about potential discord or cacophony between the two powers of the alliance. But after going through our discussion today, Mr. President, I realize once again that with regard to all the matters and all the issues of great importance, we were able to deal with them and we were able to bring closure to them smoothly. And I am very certain that our alliance remains solid and will continue to remain solid and staunch in the future as well.

To be sure, there are one or two minor issues, but I'm also quite certain that we will be able to work them out very smoothly through dialog in the period ahead. How do you feel, Mr. President? Wouldn't you agree that the alliance is strong and everything is working—

President Bush. I would say the alliance is very strong, Mr. President. And I want to thank you for your frank assessment of the situation on the Peninsula. And I'm looking forward to having lunch with you. I'm hungry, like you are. [Laughter]

So I'm going to answer two questions, first from Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

Situation in North Korea

Q. Mr. President, just two days ago, the Vice Foreign Minister of North Korea said they do have a nuclear arsenal and they're building more. Doesn't statements like that make it—suggest that North Korea will not come back to the bargaining table? And doesn't it make it harder to bridge the kinds of differences that do remain between the U.S. and South Korea?

President Bush. No, I—South Korea and the United States share the same goal, and that is a Korean Peninsula without a nuclear weapon. And that's what we've been discussing, how best to do that. And the President and I both agree the six-party talks are essential to saying to Mr. Kim Chong-il that he ought to give up his weapons. We're making it very clear to him that the way to join the community of nations is to listen to China and South Korea and Japan and Russia and the United States—and that is to give up nuclear weapons. And we'll continue to work, to have one voice.

We laid out a way forward last June that is a reasonable proposal, and we're still awaiting the answer to that proposal. But today's meeting should make it clear that South Korea and the United States are of one voice on this very important issue.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Sir, are there any inducements you're willing to offer to get North Korea back to the talks? And if I could ask about Syria as well.

President Bush. Steve, first of all, the first part of your two-part question is this: Last June, we did lay out a way forward. And it's just not the United States; this was a plan that the United States and South Korea and China and Japan and Russia put on the table. And the plan is still there, and it's full of inducements.

The second part, on Syria—

Syria

Q. Is it your feeling that Syria still has intelligence operatives in Lebanon, and are they carrying out targeted political killings?

President Bush. Well, I've been disturbed by reports I read in today's newspaper that said that Syrian intelligence officers might still be in Lebanon and might still be there. And our message—and it's not just the message of the United States; the United Nations has said the same thing—is that in order for Lebanon to be free, is for Syria to not only remove her military but

to remove intelligence officers as well. And obviously, we're going to follow up on these troubling reports, and we expect the Syrian Government to follow up on these troubling reports.

Listen, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea. A reporter referred to Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye-gwan of North Korea. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa

June 10, 2005

Our two nations are committed to deepening the close bonds of cooperation and shared values of peace and prosperity that mark the U.S./South Africa bilateral relationship. In our meeting on June 1, we shared perspectives on vital bilateral and international issues, including: trade and economic development; eradication of poverty; the fight against HIV/AIDS; global cooperation against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; debt management in Africa; and the compelling need to help all people attain the blessings of freedom, democracy, and security.

Building Peace and Security

We discussed South Africa's experience as a beacon for reconciliation and as an important leader in resolving conflicts. We recognized the significant progress in resolving the devastating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, and Sudan. Looking to the future, we identified mutual support for United Nations and African Union initiatives as essential to building a durable peace in these countries.

- We agreed that all nations should uphold and enforce internationally established obligations to prevent the further spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and expressed our mutual determination to deal forcefully

with the threat of international terrorism.

Spreading Economic Growth and Well-Being

The productive meeting afforded us the opportunity to reaffirm our joint vision for African economic growth and development, a vision built around the principles of good governance and accountability established both in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the 2002 Monterrey Consensus.

We noted with satisfaction the positive benefits for South Africa and the region of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). We agreed that our two countries share a strong interest in the successful completion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and will work together in the WTO toward the elimination of agriculture-export subsidies, the reduction of trade-distorting domestic support, and substantial improvements in agricultural-market access. We agreed on the economic benefits of a U.S.-Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Free Trade Agreement and its potential to create economic growth and jobs, and we asked our negotiators to intensify efforts to conclude such an agreement.

We also look forward to a positive outcome of the upcoming G-8 summit reaffirming the G-8's commitment to supporting Africa's efforts to address the challenges and realize the opportunities the continent faces. We agreed to strengthen our joint efforts to cooperate to combat the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other infectious diseases.

Expanding Democracy and Freedom

We agreed that our two nations should identify ways to work together even more effectively in the international arena to promote these principles of democracy and human rights.

We stressed that a democratic, stable, and economically prosperous Zimbabwe is in the interests of the African continent and international community. We expressed our deep concern about the food crisis and the suffering of the people of the southern African region—Zimbabwe, in particular.

Next Steps

To fulfill our joint goals and interests, we agreed to take the following concrete steps over the next 12 months:

- Expand U.S. cooperation with the NEPAD to support its vision of improved governance, better economic management, and regional integration;
- Work with the African Union to promote development and good governance in Africa, support South African leadership in resolving conflict and building peace in the Democratic Re-

public of the Congo, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burundi;

- Enhance U.S.-South African military cooperation, including training and equipping a South African battalion and establishing a joint training program to support the African Standby Force and peacekeeping initiatives throughout the continent;
- Work together toward strengthening the efforts of the Zimbabwe people to achieve a peaceful resolution to that country's political and economic crisis;
- Initiate senior-level consultations on human rights, particularly for women and children, including multilateral mechanisms;
- Deepen cooperation to end terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and
- Intensify efforts to conclude a U.S.-SACU Free Trade Agreement.

Our two governments will meet regularly to consult on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues of shared importance. We asked the United States Secretary of State and the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs to oversee bilateral consultations on these initiatives and report to us in twelve months on concrete results.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue and to an even greater cooperation at all levels in our governments.

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

Statement on the Resignation of Harvey S. Rosen as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers

June 10, 2005

Harvey Rosen has served with distinction on the Council of Economic Advisers. He has been a vital and trusted member of

my economic team, and his sound counsel helped lay the foundation for economic growth and job creation. I appreciate Har-