

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-

vey's hard work and dedication, and I wish him and Marsha all the best.

The President's Radio Address *June 11, 2005*

Good morning. As we enter the summer season, my administration is working hard to keep our economy growing and creating jobs. Next week, I will talk about some of my plans to help American families achieve long-term economic security.

On Tuesday, I will discuss Social Security reform with young people in Pennsylvania. I will remind them that the Social Security system is in good shape for their grandparents and for anybody born prior to 1950. I will also tell them that we must act now to strengthen and modernize Social Security so these young people can have a secure retirement. Our young people understand that if we fail to act, Social Security will not be sound when they need it. They know that the millions of baby boomers about to retire will live longer and collect benefits that the system cannot afford.

As we make Social Security permanently sustainable, we must also make it a better deal for younger workers, by allowing them to set aside a portion of their payroll taxes in voluntary personal savings accounts. These accounts would provide the opportunity to earn a higher rate of return than the current system can offer. Personal accounts would contribute to the economic security of Americans by allowing them to build up a real nest egg, something they own and can pass on to their spouse or children, and that Government cannot take away.

On Wednesday, I will address the Energy Efficiency Forum here in Washington and renew my call for Congress to act on the energy plan I proposed 4 years ago. Today's high energy prices are like a tax that drags on our economy. We must en-

sure that American families and small businesses have access to a reliable supply of affordable energy. My energy strategy will lessen our dependence on foreign oil by encouraging conservation, promoting domestic production in environmentally friendly ways, and funding promising new sources of energy such as hydrogen, ethanol, and biodiesel. It will also modernize our aging electricity grid.

The House has passed a good energy bill. Now, the American people expect the Senate to act. For the sake of our economic and national security, Congress needs to get a good energy bill to my desk by August.

On Thursday and Friday, I will discuss a key element of ensuring health care security for our Nation's seniors. The Medicare modernization bill I signed into law in 2003 created a new prescription drug benefit, so our seniors could have more choices and receive the affordable modern health care they deserve. This voluntary benefit begins next January, and seniors will be eligible to enroll starting this November. The plan will provide many options for dependable prescription drug coverage through Medicare. During the coming months, we will work to educate all of our seniors about this new benefit, so they can choose confidently the drug plan that best meets their needs.

Finally, to ensure economic security for all Americans, Congress needs to keep your taxes low and be wise with taxpayers' dollars. I proposed and the House and Senate passed a responsible budget resolution that