

Social and Development Cooperation

14. Collaborate in the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and its successor programmes or plans so that ASEAN may accelerate its regional integration, recognizing the importance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and other sub-regional growth areas which would bridge the development gaps within ASEAN, and stress the importance of cooperation to promote sustainable development;

15. Cooperate at the regional and global levels on disaster management, including the development of regional and global standby arrangements for disaster management and emergency response, and in this connection, welcome the ASEAN Standby Arrangements for Disaster Relief and Emergency Response;

16. Resolve to work together to prevent the spread and reduce the harm of HIV/AIDS, SARS, other infectious diseases and, on an urgent basis, develop mechanisms for cooperation to contain outbreaks of avian influenza as well as pledge cooperation to put in place systems and procedures to control infectious diseases including animal diseases;

17. Foster and deepen cooperation in science and technology, and information and communications technology and en-

courage people-to-people interactions and exchanges as well as inter-faith dialogues, and promote cooperation through networking activities and capacity building in education such as student exchange, fellowship programme, academic attachment and research collaboration, as well as promotion of ASEAN studies in the U.S. and U.S. studies in ASEAN Member Countries;

18. Welcome the intention of the U.S. to foster educational exchanges and the continuing efforts of the U.S. to strengthen its engagement with the ASEAN Secretariat and support the capacity building of the Secretariat;

Follow-Up

19. Call on the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the U.S. Secretary of State, with the assistance of the senior officials, to develop a Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-United States Enhanced Partnership;

20. Call on the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to meet and contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership and its Plan of Action.

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

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Busan, South Korea
November 18, 2005

President Putin. Distinguished Mr. President, allow me to cordially welcome you and your colleagues. And I get impression that with some of your colleagues, I never said goodbye. [Laughter] And it is very pleasant indeed, that with these colleagues, we virtually had permanent contacts on almost all bilateral and international issues.

And I'm especially pleased to have this meeting with you here in South Korea. You stayed here for quite a while, and probably you will tell me of your impressions.

President Bush. That's right. Thank you. Well, thanks, Vladimir, for hosting this meeting. I always enjoy a chance to have a good discussion with you. You're right;

we've got a very important relationship. We value your advice, and we value the strategic relationship we've built. So thanks—thanks again for hosting this.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:16 p.m. at the Busan Marriott. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Legislation To Reduce Federal Spending

November 18, 2005

I applaud the Republican Members of the House who passed a significant savings package that will restrain spending and keep us on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. We will continue to fund our priorities in a fiscally responsible way and en-

sure that taxpayer money is spent wisely or not spent at all. I urge the House and Senate to reach agreement promptly on a spending-reduction package that I can sign into law this year.

Remarks to United States Troops at Osan, South Korea

November 19, 2005

Thank you all. Thank you all very much. Please be seated—unless you don't have a seat. [Laughter] Laura and I are so honored to be here. We thought we'd stop by and feel the thunder and the fury of the Mustangs. Thanks for greeting us. It's a privilege to stand with the brave men and women of the 51st Fighter Wing and the 7th Air Force. Our citizens are safer because you're ready to fight tonight. You're serving the cause of liberty on distant frontiers, and I bring a message from home: Your Commander in Chief is proud of you, and so is the American people.

For half a century, American service men and women have stood faithful and vigilant watch here in Korea. You've kept the peace, and you secured the freedom won at great cost in the Korean war. You've ensured that no American life was lost in vain. In five decades, since Task Force Smith first landed at Pusan, the world has watched America's steadfast and unwavering commitment to freedom.

Three years of war made America and Korea enduring allies in the struggle for liberty. And five decades of sacrifice by the men and women of our Armed Forces secured peace and democracy on this peninsula. And the world is better off for it. Your courage has brought stability to the region, freedom to millions, and honor to the uniform. Our Nation is grateful for your service—your service for freedom and peace.

The Republic of Korea is now a beacon of liberty that shines across the most heavily armed border in the world. It is a light reaching to a land shrouded in darkness. Together the United States and the Republic of Korea have shown that the future belongs to freedom, and one day, all Koreans will enjoy the blessings of freedom.

I'm proud to be traveling with the First Lady, Laura Bush, and the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. I thank General LaPorte and his wife, Judy. I want to thank