

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea in Hanoi, Vietnam

November 18, 2006

President Roh. Today President Bush and I had a very good discussion on the North Korean nuclear issue. We agreed on the principle that North Korea should dismantle its nuclear weapons and its nuclear program, that our two countries fully support the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1718, and our two countries will implement this resolution in a faithful manner.

Although the Republic of Korea is not taking part in the full scope of the PSI, we support the principles and goals of the PSI and will fully cooperate in preventing WMD materiel transfer in the Northeast Asia region. And we also agreed that we will actively seek to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue within the six-party talks framework and also by actively engaging in bilateral talks within this framework.

In conclusion, the President and I had very satisfactory discussions on this issue, and we had very useful and indepth discussions on resolving the North Korean nuclear issue.

President Bush. Mr. President, I agree. We had a discussion like you would expect allies to have a discussion. We are allies in peace. We are allies in working to improve the lives of our fellow citizens.

We did discuss 1718, Resolution 1718 and our mutual desire to effectively enforce the will of the world. I appreciate the cooperation we're receiving from South Korea on the Proliferation Security Initiative. Our desire is to solve the North Korean issue peacefully. And as I've made clear in a speech as recently as two days ago in Singapore, that we want the North Korean leader to hear that if he gives up his weapons and nuclear weapons ambitions, that we would be willing to enter into security arrangements with the North Koreans as well as move forward new economic incentives for the North Korean people.

I appreciate your commitment to peace, and I appreciate our mutual friendship, Mr. President. And I've enjoyed yet another meeting in our quest to achieve our common objectives.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:38 a.m. at the Sheraton Hanoi. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea. President Roh spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Lunch With Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan in Hanoi

November 18, 2006

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for your time. We just had a very frank and full discussion. I admire the Prime Minister's intellect. I'm very comfortable with his style, and I'm very confident we'll be able to work together for the common good.

The relationship between Japan and the United States is strong, and we will keep it that way. And a strong relationship between our two countries is good for the security of the East. We talked a lot of issues. And we spent time talking about North Korea and our common commitment

to see that the six-party talks succeed. We spent a lot of time talking about bilateral issues. And one of the most interesting issues we discussed was our common desire to continue to cooperate on a ballistic missile defense.

I told the Prime Minister he needs to get over to the United States quickly. I'm looking forward to hosting you. And thank you for your time.

Prime Minister Abe. I was able to spend a very meaningful and wonderful time with the President today. So thank you very much, Mr. President.

Japan and U.S. share an alliance which is based on fundamental values, such as freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and the rule of law. And we agreed with each other that strengthening our alliance would be a good in maintaining peace and security of not just Japan and the region surrounding Japan but the entire world.

Also concerning North Korea, as the President mentioned, we agreed that we

would take a coordinated approach to reach a final resolution of the issue and also to achieve some concrete results at an early stage. We also agreed to strengthen and accelerate our cooperation concerning ballistic missile defense, and we will instruct our foreign ministers and defense ministers to conduct consideration concerning this matter.

We are faced with many difficult issues, like North Korea, the fight against terror, and also Iraq. But we agreed that we will be utilizing the alliance we have between Japan and the United States for the good of the world and the region for a long time.

And I'm looking forward to visiting the United States sometime next year and seeing the President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:47 p.m. at the Sheraton Hanoi. Prime Minister Abe spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea in Hanoi *November 18, 2006*

I want to thank the leaders of two of America's strongest allies, the President of South Korea and the Prime Minister of Japan, for joining in this trilateral discussion. It is an important dialog between three democracies, all of which are committed to peace and security. I look forward to discussing a wide range of issues with these two leaders. There is no doubt, when

we work together, we can bring peace and stability and prosperity for our peoples.

And so I want to thank you all very much for joining. I appreciate your time, and I'm looking forward to our dialog. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:02 p.m. at the Sheraton Hanoi.