

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in Hanoi

November 19, 2006

President Bush. Today Vladimir and I are pleased to report that after a long set of negotiations, Representative Gref and Ambassador Schwab have signed agreements that will be good for the United States and good for Russia. And that is, we support Russia's accession into the WTO. I congratulate you all for your hard work, and thank you very much for the hard work.

I repeat: This is a good agreement for the United States. And equally important, it's a good agreement for Russia, and it's a good agreement for the international trading community. And I thank you very much, Vladimir, for working hard on this agreement.

As usual, we've had a very important dialog. And we talked about common interests and how we can work together to solve some of the world's problems, including North Korea and Iran. And I want to thank you for your time and friendship.

President Putin. On my part, I would like to add that we've been in the process of difficult and lengthy work, 5 years of intense effort which has been culminated today with the signing of a protocol on Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization, which has been a successful outcome of this effort.

And I would like to underscore that this would not have been possible to achieve without expert and professional involvement both on the side of the U.S. and Russia, and without good will expressed in this—should I say, in the right term would be to use here—very businesslike approach in their dealing.

On top of that, it would not have been possible without a political will, which has been here expressed by the President of the United States of America. And I agree with you, George, that this lays out very favorable conditions to us to jointly tackle the very pertinent and acute problems of international relations together.

It also lays out favorable conditions to further develop the scope and volume of commerce and economic interaction between the business partners—between our two countries involved with other countries.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:16 p.m. at the Sheraton Hanoi. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Economic Development and Trade German Oskarovich Gref of Russia; and Ambassador Susan C. Schwab, U.S. Trade Representative. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Business Leaders in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

November 20, 2006

Thank you all very much for—thank you very much for joining me and the Secretary of State. I find it really interesting that my first meeting in Ho Chi Minh City is at the stock exchange, and I'm meeting with entrepreneurs, people who have taken

a look at the markets in Vietnam and have decided that this is a good place to invest.

I want to thank you all for coming to share some of your stories with me. I'm very interested in hearing what the opportunities are like and the obstacles you face

and how, perhaps, the United States can help foster the market economy that is growing here.

I must tell you, I am, first of all, unbelievably grateful for the welcome that Laura and I have been received with here in Ho Chi Minh City; I've never seen as many people line the streets with such a friendly attitude. Secondly, when I read about the recent economic history of Vietnam, I am amazed at the size of the growth and the fact that are people are beginning to realize

dreams. I recognize that some of you here at the table were born in Vietnam, came to the United States in the midseventies, and have decided to return. And I'm really interested in hearing what that has been like and the contrast in lifestyles and why you made the decisions you made.

And I do want to hear from you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. at the Ho Chi Minh City Securities Trading Center.

Remarks Following a Tour of the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City November 20, 2006

Laura and I are honored to be here at the center of an effort to help Vietnam battle HIV/AIDS. And, doctor, thank you for this wonderful tour. We've got a comprehensive strategy involved through our PEPFAR program with the country. We've got a very strong mother-to-child transmission program to prevent the children from developing HIV/AIDS.

The doctor has been explaining to us their strategy on how to detect HIV/AIDS not only in the cities but in the Provinces.

And part of our comprehensive strategy to help this country is to distribute antiretroviral drugs.

Laura and I have come by to thank the doctor and her staff for their compassionate work and to assure the Vietnamese people that we will still help them fight HIV/AIDS.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, director, Pasteur Institute.

Remarks in a Discussion With Civic Leaders in Bogor, Indonesia November 20, 2006

Mr. President, thank you very much. Thank you all for joining. I'm really looking forward to this discussion. I admire Indonesia's pluralism and its diversity. I admire your President's commitment to reform and strengthening democracy. It's very important for the people of America to understand that this vast country has got not only tremendous potential, but it's got a prominent role to play in the world—showing how it's possible for people of good

will to live together in peace and harmony. And that's the lesson I want to hear from you all as well. I'm looking forward to our discussion.

I cannot thank you enough for taking time out of your busy day to come up here and share thoughts with us. I'm very interested in learning how our Government can continue to work with your Government, as it so chooses, to help, particularly in areas like education and health.