

## Remarks Following a Meeting With President Rene Garcia Preval of Haiti May 8, 2007

*President Bush.* I appreciate very much the President of Haiti joining us here in the Oval Office. Mr. President, welcome. I thank you for your courage. I thank you for having one of the toughest jobs in the world, and that is to bring prosperity and security to your country.

While there is still a lot of work to be done, there's progress being made on a variety of fronts. The security situation is improving somewhat, and the United States supports the U.N. mission in Haiti. The economy is improving, inflation is down, exports are up. Yet there's still a lot of work to be done. And, Mr. President, I praise your efforts on establishing rule of law and routing out corruption. And the United States wants to help you.

The United States is proud to support the men and women of Haiti in a variety of ways. One among the most notable programs and one of which I'm particularly proud is our PEPFAR program, the program to help deal with HIV/AIDS. The President mentioned other ways that we can help in fighting drugs, drug traffickers. I was particularly pleased that he brought up the idea of helping the education system in Haiti. And I have instructed Secretary Rice, along with our Ambassador, to work with the Government, see if we can help.

And finally, the President was very concerned about the status of Haitians who are here in America. I assured him that I am working hard to get a comprehensive immigration bill passed out of the Congress this year. As a man who cares deeply about the people of Haiti, it's—I am pleased that he has expressed his concerns. And I think, Mr. President, with hard work and good will, we can get a bill that will satisfy your concerns.

We welcome you. Thanks for coming.

*President Preval.* I thank President Bush for his invitation. And this was a chance

for me to describe to him our situation and the expectations of the Haitian people.

The purpose of this mission was to explain the situation in Haiti, and President Bush noted with interest the points that were raised. I'm not going to come back to them right now, but I would like to thank the United States for the fraternal aid it has given Haiti. And I would particularly like to thank President Bush for the HOPE bill and for the efforts made for its reinforcing the judicial system, the police force, and also to help strengthen the Haitian State.

I also took this chance to express my condolences to President Bush and to the American people for the tragedy that we've been through in Kansas. Each time someone suffers, we all suffer. And I would like to ask President Bush to transmit in my name and in the name of the Haitian people our condolences to the American people.

Peace has been restored, and the conditions for investment are here. Haiti is awaiting American investors. We've opened a campaign to fight against corruption and contraband so that all can be on a level playing field and for conditions for competition to be right. Therefore, investors will not have to fear in terms of security or corruption, and they can come to Haiti, because what we need in Haiti are jobs.

And I would also like to thank the President for his in—assistance in the fight against the plague, which is the drug trade. Drugs in Haiti represent a force, and Haiti alone cannot fight against the drug trade. It always weakens the state and corrupts the state. And it doesn't—the drug trade does not function well with a strong state or a healthy state. It tries to corrupt the police force; it tries to corrupt the judiciary and the executive. And drug trafficking thrives in a weak state. Drug traffickers

invest in weakening and destabilizing the state. And I would like to thank the President who, through the DEA, is helping us in this effort against the plague of drugs.

And I will end on a note of hope, because we have countrymen who are here illegally and are living in a difficult situation. The President has promised to work on an immigration bill that will help improve the lives of our countrymen here in the United States.

Thank you.

*President Bush.* Good job. Thank you, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:45 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Janet A. Sanderson. President Preval spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Remarks at a Dinner With Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom May 8, 2007

*Queen Elizabeth II.* Mr. President, I wondered whether I should start this toast saying, "When I was here in 1776," but I don't think I will. [*Laughter*]

Mr. President, it is a real pleasure to welcome you and Mrs. Bush here this evening. Over our 6 days in the United States, we have much enjoyed the chance to dwell on the history of the relationship between our two countries, as well as celebrating its present strength and vitality. I would like to thank everyone for the warmth and kindness extended to us.

I would also like to take this opportunity, on the day that has seen the formal transfer of power to the devolved Northern Ireland Government, to thank you and your predecessors for your contribution to bringing peace to Northern Ireland.

May I ask everyone to rise and drink a toast to President and Mrs. Bush, to the future of our two countries, and the enduring friendship between Britain and the United States.

Mr. President.

[*At this point, the Queen offered a toast.*]

*President Bush.* Your Majesty, I can't top that one. [*Laughter*]

Your Royal Highness, distinguished guests, thank you so much for a warm wel-

come. Laura and I appreciate your hospitality. I particularly want to thank Ambassador Manning and Lady Manning for inviting us to your home.

The friendship between the British and American people is one of the oldest and most enduring in history. This friendship has been built on the common ideal of freedom and forged by our shared sacrifices in freedom's defense.

Your Majesty, I appreciate your visit to our World War II Memorial. I thank you for sharing your perspective last night on how the Atlantic alliance that emerged from a great conflict has helped lay the foundation for freedom's triumph in Europe and beyond.

Today, British and American troops are following the example set by a previous generation. Troops from our two countries are serving side by side to bring the hope of liberty to regions that have not known it. Together, we're supporting young democracies that are taking their first steps on the path to free and peaceful societies.

This morning the world witnessed yet another advance for freedom and peace: The people of Northern Ireland took control of their future when Catholics and Protestants came together to form a new Government