

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia  
in Sochi, Russia  
April 6, 2008

*President Putin.* Dear Mr. President, let me once again welcome you here in Sochi. I am very pleased that you've accepted this invitation. And I'm pleased that after the meeting in Bucharest, you now have the opportunity to discuss with me our bilateral relations and security issues.

Yesterday we actually started discussing those issues, and today we'll have to—we have the opportunity to discuss this in a calmer working manner. And on top of all, I am delighted to show you around Sochi, which will be the capital of the Olympic games in 2014.

Welcome, Mr. President.

*President Bush.* Thank you. I, first of all, was most grateful for the dinner that you gave last night. Secondly, thank you very much for providing fantastic entertainment. I'm only happy that our press corps didn't try—see me trying to dance the dance that I was asked to do. [*Laughter*]

*President Putin.* We were able to see that you are a brilliant dancer. [*Laughter*]

*President Bush.* Yes, well, thank you very much. We'll leave it at that, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

I do want to—you know, it's going to be a very interesting meeting. This is the final meeting that we will have as Presidents of our respective countries. We have met a lot over the past years, and I've come to, you know, respect you. I respect the fact that you love your country. You've been a strong leader. You're not afraid to tell me what's on your mind. And when it's all said and done, we can shake hands.

And so I thank you very much for your wonderful hospitality here. Thank you, sir. Yes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. at the Bocharov Ruchei. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks During a Meeting With President-elect Dmitry A. Medvedev of  
Russia in Sochi  
April 6, 2008

*President-elect Medvedev.* Good afternoon, Mr. President. I'm happy to meet you again. And I would like to once again thank you for warm congratulations on my election—

*President Bush.* Yes, sir.

*President-elect Medvedev.* —as President of the Russian Federation.

President Putin and you, over these last 8 years, did a lot to advance Russian-U.S. relationship. And the relationship between Russia and the United States is a key factor of international security. When I officially

assume my duties, I would like to do my best to keep up—

*President Bush.* And thank you.

*President-elect Medvedev.* —that direction that—our relationship, so there will be constructive engagement between us.

*President Bush.* Yes, sir. Thank you. Look, it seems like there's a lot of interest in you, Mr. President-elect. You've attracted a lot of cameras.

*President-elect Medvedev.* Surprise, surprise. [*Laughter*]