

Remarks Following a Meeting With Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in Toyako

July 8, 2008

President Bush. Madam Chancellor, thank you for yet another visit. I value your friendship; I value your advice. We talked about a lot of common problems and a lot of common opportunities. We talked about the G-8. We talked about the need to work—to continue to work together on Iran. Angela Merkel is a constructive force for good. And I appreciate your time. Thank you.

Chancellor Merkel. Well, thank you very much. As always, we had a very interesting exchange of view, a very intensive exchange of view. And let me tell you that I'm very satisfied with the work that has gone on, on the G-8 documents, as regards progress

on the issue of climate change, cooperation in the area of food and oil. We discussed here a number of other foreign policy—foreign political issues—sorry. We also discussed WTO and the possible conclusion to that negotiating process. And let me say that we are hopeful that such a successful conclusion may be possible over the next few weeks to come.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:56 a.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa. Chancellor Merkel spoke in German, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India in Toyako

July 9, 2008

President Bush. Prime Minister Singh and I just had a typical conversation amongst friends. We talked about common opportunities and world problems, and we did it in a spirit of respect. And it was easy for me to do because I respect the Prime Minister a lot. I also respect India a lot. And I think it's very important that the United States continues to work with our friends to develop not only a new strategic relationship, but a relationship that addresses some of the world's problems.

We talked about the India-U.S. nuclear deal and how important that is for our respective countries. We talked about the environment and how we can work together to grow our economies and, at the same time, be responsible stewards of the environment. We talked about free trade, the Doha round, and how important it is that

nations such as India and the United States find common ground to make sure protectionist sentiments don't wall us off from the rest of the world.

We talked about educational exchanges. I reminded the Prime Minister that the Indian American population is very proud of this relationship and proud of their heritage and proud of the leadership of the Prime Minister.

All in all, it was a really good meeting amongst two friends. And so, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for joining us today, and congratulations on your leadership at home.

Prime Minister Singh. Mr. President, it has been a great privilege for me to once again meet you and to review with you the state of Indo-American relations. And I'm very happy to report to the President

that our relations have moved forward handsomely since our first meeting in July 2005. We have made progress in all areas. We have progressed in nuclear cooperation, space cooperation, defense cooperation, educational exchanges, our working together in multilateral institutions for the success of Doha round. And I am very pleased with the state of our relationship, which has truly acquired the characteristic of a genuine strategic partnership.

I thank the President for his personal, magnificent contribution to the evolution of our relationship. And all I can say is, our relationship with the United States has never been in such good shape as it is

today. And it is the intention of my Government, as I believe it is also the will of the Indian people, particularly the thinking segments of our population, that in this increasingly interdependent world that we live in, whether it is a question of climate change, whether it is a question of managing the global economy, India and United States must stand tall, stand shoulder to shoulder. And that's what is going to happen.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. We're standing shoulder to shoulder right here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:23 a.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Toyako

July 9, 2008

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you very much for your time. We—you and I have had a lot of meetings together, and I always appreciate the candid discussions on a variety of issues.

The President and I discussed Taiwan; we discussed Sudan; we discussed trade. We discussed a variety of issues. I told the President I was looking forward to coming to the Olympics. I reminded him that not only am I coming, but my wife, my mother, and dad will be there, and we're looking forward to your hospitality.

And of course, in this context, I—the President and I have constantly had discussions about human rights and political freedom. He knows my position. And as I told our people, Mr. President, I don't need the Olympics to talk candidly with somebody who I've got good relations with.

So I'm looking forward to your hospitality, and I'm really looking forward to watching the American Olympic team compete, particularly with the mighty Chinese team. And I'm hoping to get tickets for

the U.S.-Chinese basketball game. If you could help me get a ticket, I'd appreciate it. [*Laughter*]

But thank you very much.

President Hu. Just now, President Bush and I had a sincere and friendly meeting, and we had an in-depth exchange of views on China-U.S. relations and issues of mutual interest. We both believe that a new progress has been made in China-U.S. relationship in recent years. Our two countries not only have close interactions between high-level leaders, but also between people at various other levels. Not long ago, China and United States successfully held the fourth Strategic Economic Dialogue, which produced positive results.

In addition, our two countries have also had fruitful cooperation in economic, trade, counterterrorism, energy, environmental protection, and other areas. We also have had close communication and coordination on such major regional and international issues as the Korean nuclear issue and Iranian nuclear issue.