

Today, the United States and China have built a strong relationship, rooted in common interests. China has opened its economy and begun to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of its people. America will continue to support China on the path toward a free economy.

We're also cooperating to fight pandemic diseases and respond to natural disasters. And through the six-party talks, we're working together to ensure that the Korean Peninsula is free of nuclear weapons.

The relationship between our nations is constructive and cooperative and candid. We'll continue to be candid about our mutual global responsibilities. We must work together to protect the environment and help people in the developing world, continue to be candid about our belief that all people should have the freedom to say what they think and worship as they choose. We strongly believe societies which allow the free expression of ideas tend to be the most prosperous and the most peaceful.

Candor is the most effective—is most effective where nations have built a relationship of respect and trust. I've worked hard to build that respect and trust. I appreciate

the Chinese leadership that have worked hard to build that respect and trust. And I thank all those here at the Embassy who are doing the same thing. The people here who work made sacrifices to serve our country. Serving America is noble, and I hope you found it to be rewarding, just like I have.

I'm honored to be with you. I appreciate the honor of dedicating this new Embassy. And I'm looking forward to going to the games. [*Laughter*] God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:10 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to his brother Marvin P. Bush and his sister Dorothy Bush Koch; State Councilor Dai Bingguo, Minister of Finance Xie Xuren, and Ambassador to the U.S. Zhou Wenzhong of China; former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger; and entertainers Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers and the Red Poppy Ladies Percussion Ensemble. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former President George H.W. Bush. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks to the 2008 United States Summer Olympic Team in Beijing *August 8, 2008*

Congratulations for representing the finest nation on the face of the Earth. The honorary captain and I are proud to be with you. We're here to wish you all the very best.

First, I want to say thanks to the U.S. Olympic Committee, chaired by Peter Ueberroth, CEO Jim Scherr, Judge Charles Lee. I wasn't exactly sure what to say to you, except to start with, God, I love our country, and I love what we stand for, and I love being with you.

Laura and I and a lot of our family are here to cheer you on. We're just a handful of a lot of folks who care about you a lot. There are going to be a lot of people pulling for you. We want you to win as many golds as you possibly can.

We appreciate all the hard work you've put in to get to this spot. It's got to be really exciting, thinking about marching in that stadium and representing our country. So I guess all I've got to say is, go for it, give it all you've got, and may God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:44 p.m. in the Fencing Hall. In his remarks, he referred to former President George H.W. Bush, honorary captain, and Charles Lee, chef de mis-

sion, 2008 U.S. summer Olympic team. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks in Beijing *August 9, 2008*

Situation in Georgia

I'm deeply concerned about the situation in Georgia. The United States takes this matter very seriously.

The attacks are occurring in regions of Georgia far from the zone of conflict in South Ossetia. They mark a dangerous escalation in the crisis. The violence is endangering regional peace. Civilian lives have been lost, and others are endangered.

This situation can be resolved peacefully. We've been in contact with leaders in both Georgia and Russia at all levels of government. Georgia is a sovereign nation, and its territorial integrity must be respected. We have urged an immediate halt to the violence and a standdown by all troops. We call for an end to the Russian bombings and a return by the parties to the status quo of August the 6th.

The United States is working with our European partners to launch international mediation and with the parties to restart their dialogue. Russia needs to support these efforts so that peace can be restored as quickly as possible.

Attack on American Tourists

Laura and I were also saddened by the attack on an American family and their Chinese tour guide today in Beijing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. And the United States Government has offered to provide any assistance the family needs.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:20 p.m. at the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Todd and Barbara Bachman, who were attacked while touring the Drum Tower in Beijing.

The President's Radio Address *August 9, 2008*

Good morning. I'm speaking to you from Beijing, where I've come to support American athletes participating in the Olympic Games. This is a moment of pride for our Olympians and the great Nation they represent, and Laura and I are honored to share it with them.

In addition to attending the Olympics, my schedule includes meeting with China's President, dedicating a new U.S. Embassy

in Beijing, and worshiping at a local church. During my time here, I'm expressing America's deep concerns about freedom and human rights in China. This trip has reaffirmed my belief that men and women who aspire to speak their conscience and worship their God are no threat to the future of China; they are the people who will make China a great nation in the 21st century.