

the private sector and the public sector and NGOs who are all concerned about hunger.

The United States has made a very strong and powerful commitment to help those who need food. We've committed about \$5 billion of taxpayers' money over the next 2 years to make sure people don't go hungry. And it's our interest that we do that. On the other hand, it is also in our interest to promote a second Green Revolution.

And how do you do that? Well, you use good science to get farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the tools necessary to be able to deal with the conditions in which they have to farm. You use government aid to build infrastructure so farmers can get products to market. You have good trade policy so that farm goods can travel freely across national borders. You have good agricultural policy that—combined with good trade policy, which reduces the subsidies that sometimes make it hard for, you know, indigenous farming communities

to take off. You have—promote value-added processing.

And so this is the strategy that's being discussed here at this table. The United States is a compassionate nation. When citizens around the world suffer, we suffer with them. We're a strong enough nation to help people in our own country who are having trouble, but we're also strong enough to help others as well. And a cornerstone of good foreign policy and a good compassionate philosophy is making sure that people don't go hungry.

And so I thank you all very much for sharing that passion. I thank you for the leadership roles you have taken. And may the Good Lord continue to bless your work. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:57 a.m. at the Millennium U.N. Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Remarks Following a Lunch With Human Rights Activists in New York City

September 23, 2008

The President. Laura and I and Secretary Rice and members of my administration have just had a wonderful lunch with democracy leaders, human rights activists, courageous men and women who have stood strong for freedom. I assured them that this Government—or my Government believes in the universality of freedom. We believe there's an Almighty, and a gift of that Almighty to every man, woman, and child is freedom.

They inspire us. Here in America, we have an obligation to help others realize the blessings of liberty. They have been on the frontlines of securing liberty. And so we want to thank you very much for your courage. We thank you for your set

of beliefs that remain strong. Thank you for taking time to be with us today. And you might want to say something.

[*At this point, First Lady Laura Bush made brief remarks, concluding with the introduction of human rights activist, U Kovida.*]

U Kovida. Thank you very much for inviting me here. This is really a nice day and my friends—discussion with many people. In Burma, many hundred people, a lot. We all need human rights, all the world's people, because we are all human. So if—when people—there's no human rights, there's no people, and there's no human. So I hope so—I hope that we all—international community need—help the

Burmese people, and I hope to get help to others—international community and the U.S. and the European, every country. And I hope we can change the Government some without weapon in Burma and Tibet and other—Zimbabwe—other countries, so around the world, we all need peace for—need a change without weapon. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you all. Thanks.

The First Lady. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:32 p.m. at Governors Island. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda in New York City September 23, 2008

President Bush. I just had a very productive meeting with President Museveni of Uganda. He is—he's been a very strong leader on a number of fronts.

First, he's been very helpful in solving regional conflicts on the continent of Africa, and I want to thank you for your leadership.

Secondly, you gave me great confidence when it came to realizing the proper strategy in dealing with HIV/AIDS. Because of the success in Uganda, that showed the rest of the continent and the rest of the world how strong leadership and a good strategy can actually save lives in a very substantial way. The ABC program was implemented in your country; infection rate went from a lot to, you know, a much smaller number.

I also want to thank you very much for implementing the Malaria Initiative. There's been over 200,000 [2.2 million]* bed nets distributed in your country, Mr. President, and that's because of the leadership of you and the organization of your Government.

And so I thank you for coming by for what has been a very productive meeting.

President Museveni. Thank you, sir. Well, I thank President Bush for the support he has given Uganda through the AIDS fund, for the development contribution. That's how our people are able to get free ARVs, antiretrovirals. Many people have access to these drugs now. In fact, almost all the people that need to have them, have access to the drugs, do so now in the case of Uganda.

You should know that not everybody who has got AIDS needs to start on the ARVs; there's a certain threshold of resistance below which he should be able to access the drugs. And because of the money President Bush has provided, and also the money from the Global Fund, all our people who need to access ARVs do so now.

Then there's also the Millennium Challenge Account, although I don't fully access that money, but we have got a part of it. And that one is also very helpful.

Then there's the general support through the World Bank and other bilateral programs like USAID, supporting infrastructure. Because what we need in Africa is to lower the cost of doing business in Africa through investing in infrastructure and energy and so on, so that we can be able to attract FDI, foreign direct investment.

* White House correction.