

Apr. 5 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2009

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:21 a.m. in Hradcany Square. In his remarks, he referred to President Vaclav Klaus and Prime Minister

Mirek Topolánek of the Czech Republic; and President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia.

Exchange With Reporters in Prague *April 5, 2009*

The President. Hello, everybody. I hope you're not tired of me by now.

Q. Sir, what's your message for North Korea, please?

Situation in North Korea

The President. We delivered it today. They, I think, have taken a provocative action. It creates instability in their region, around the world. If they want to take an appropriate path

to rejoin the international community and break out of their isolation, that's available to them. That's not the path they're taking right now. And we intend to work with the international community to deliver a strong message.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:39 a.m. at the Prague Congress Center. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of Spain in Prague *April 5, 2009*

I just want to say that I've very much enjoyed working with Mr. Zapatero over the last several days. He is somebody who clearly understands not only Spain's extraordinary influence in the world, but also takes those responsibilities very seriously. And I think that we're going to be able to establish what is already a strong relationship between the two countries. I think we can make it even stronger. So I'm

glad to call him a friend, and I welcome our opportunities to cooperate on a whole host of issues in the years to come.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:11 p.m. in the Prague Congress Center. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Lech Kaczyński and Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland in Prague *April 5, 2009*

Let me just say very briefly that the relationship between the United States and Poland is one of the strongest in the world. It's based not only on shared values, but also on the fact that, just to give you an example, in Chicago, my friends from Poland and the contribution they've made to our city is part of what makes America. So we have benefited from Polish culture and the Polish people and the outstanding Polish character.

And so it is a great pleasure to meet with these outstanding leaders. We're looking forward to continuing some of the conversations that we've been having both in the EU summit as well as in earlier meetings in NATO. And I'm confident that on issues ranging from security to energy to economics, that by working together, we're going to be able to make both our countries more prosperous and more peaceful for future generations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:12 p.m. in the Prague Congress Center. Audio was not avail-

able for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Former President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic in Prague *April 5, 2009*

President Obama. I just want to say very briefly before this brief visit that I was a fan of Mr. Havel's writings even before he ended up leading, or helping to lead the liberation of this extraordinary country. And so for me to be able to spend some time with him and draw inspiration from him is something that I very much appreciate, and it's a great way to cap off my visit not just to the Czech Republic, but also my visit to Europe.

Former President Havel. I'm grateful to the President that he found time in his busy schedule to receive me. And I'm his big admirer, and I'm really glad that we could meet.

President Obama. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:47 p.m. at the Prague Congress Center. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Situation in North Korea *April 5, 2009*

North Korea's development and proliferation of ballistic missile technology pose a threat to the Northeast Asian region and to international peace and security. The launch today of a Taepodong-2 missile was a clear violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718, which expressly prohibits North Korea from conducting ballistic missile-related activities of any kind. With this provocative act, North Korea has ignored its international obligations, rejected unequivocal calls for restraint, and further isolated itself from the community of nations.

We will immediately consult with our allies in the region, including Japan and the Republic of Korea and members of the U.N. Security Council, to bring this matter before the Council. I urge North Korea to abide fully by the res-

olutions of the U.N. Security Council and to refrain from further provocative actions.

Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery is a high priority for my administration. The United States is fully committed to maintaining security and stability in Northeast Asia, and we will continue working for the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through the six-party talks. The six-party talks provide the forum for achieving denuclearization, reducing tensions, and for resolving other issues of concern between North Korea, its four neighbors, and the United States. North Korea has a pathway to acceptance in the international community, but it will not find that acceptance unless it abandons its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and abides by its international obligations and commitments.

Joint Statement by the United States and the European Council on the North Korean Launch *April 5, 2009*

The launch of a missile by North Korea defies UN Security Council resolutions and harms peace and stability in northeast Asia. We call on

North Korea to honor its commitment to abandon all nuclear weapons programs, to abide by recognized norms of international relations, and