

the progress towards peace and destabilize the entire area and threaten existing peace agreements.

So it's very clear to us. I think we actually—we don't see closely on this; we see exactly eye to eye on this, that we want to move simultaneously and then parallel on two fronts: the front of peace and the front of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear capabilities.

On the front of peace, the important thing for me is to resume negotiations as rapidly as possible, and to—and my view is less one of terminology, but one of substance. And I ask myself, what do we end up with? If we end up with another Gaza—the President has described to you there's rockets falling out of Gaza—that is something we don't want to happen, because a terror base next to our cities that doesn't call—recognize Israel's existence, calls for our destruction, and asks for our destruction is not our view of peace.

If, however, the Palestinians recognize Israel as the Jewish state, if they fight terror, if they educate their children for peace and to a better future, then I think we can come at a substantive solution that allows the two peoples to live side by side in security and peace

and, I add, prosperity, because I'm a great believer in this.

So I think the terminology will take care of itself, if we have the substantive understanding. And I think we can move forward on this. I have great confidence in your leadership, Mr. President, and in your friendship to my country and in your championing of peace and security. And the answer is, both come together; peace and security are intertwined. They're inseparable.

And I look forward, Mr. President, to working with you to achieve both.

*President Obama.* Good. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:21 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George J. Mitchell; and President Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran. Prime Minister Netanyahu referred to King Abdullah II of Jordan. A reporter referred to Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Lebanese political-paramilitary organization Hizballah; and Khaled Meshal, leader of the Palestinian political-paramilitary organization Hamas.

## Statement on Haitian Flag Day

May 18, 2009

The United States and Haiti share a deeply intertwined history and a long standing friendship. In 1779, freemen from the French colony of Saint Domingue, now the Republic of Haiti, came to the aid of American patriots fighting for freedom at the Siege of Savannah. Today, we remain connected by a Haitian American community that contributes greatly to the economic, social, cultural, scientific, and

academic fabric of the United States and by my administration's steadfast commitment to come to the aid of those in Haiti working to ensure that Haiti's future is stable, sustainable, and prosperous. On this Haitian Flag Day, I am proud to send my warm wishes and those of the American people to the people of Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora as they celebrate during Haitian Heritage Month.

## Remarks on Fuel Efficiency Standards

May 19, 2009

Thank you very much. Thank you. Please, everybody have a seat. What an extraordinary day. The sun is out because good things are happening. Before I get started, just some

preliminary introductions, I'll probably repeat them in my formal remarks, but I want to make sure that I acknowledge some people who have been critical to this effort and