

These are the things we can do together to unleash the skills and talents of our people and to ensure our common prosperity in the 21st century. And if we do, I'm confident that Africans can live their dreams from Nairobi to Accra, from Lagos to Kigali, from Kinshasa to Cape Town.

Thank you for your work at this important forum. Enjoy Nairobi.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 2:35 p.m. on July 31 in the Red Room at the White House for later transmission to the forum meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. In his remarks, he referred to President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Amolo Odinga of Kenya. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks on the Nomination of John V. Roos To Be Ambassador to Japan August 6, 2009

*The President.* Hello, everybody. I think many of you are aware that the partnership between the United States and Japan is one of tremendous importance. It's one of the cornerstones of our both security and economic well being. We have an extraordinarily close relationship that's based on shared values and shared interests. There is enormous respect between the people of Japan and the people of the United States.

And it's for that reason that my administration wants to get off on a strong footing diplomatically in our relationship. And I placed great importance in the selection of who would represent the United States as Ambassador to Japan. After careful consideration, I made the determination that the person who I thought could best do this is somebody with superb judgment, somebody with an outstanding intellect, somebody who is a very close friend of mine and a close adviser, somebody who has worked both in the private sector with cutting-edge technologies, but also is somebody who has a deep interest in public service. And that's my friend John Roos.

He is somebody who I'm confident is going to be able to help to strengthen both the re-

gional and global relationship between the United States and Japan. He's somebody who will be able to advise me directly on issues that may arise and opportunities that may arise in the U.S.-Japanese relationship. He is somebody who, I know, is going to be working incredibly hard to make sure that he is listening to and understanding the full scope of Japanese concerns. And so I very much appreciate his willingness to take on this task.

And he and his wife, Susie, and his family are prepared to and eager to travel to Japan. It's a sacrifice to, obviously, uproot yourself, but John has shown nothing but great enthusiasm for what is one of the most important diplomatic tasks that we have in the country. And I'm grateful for his service and confident that he is going to represent not only my administration but the United States of America with extraordinary ability.

So thank you so much, John.

*Ambassador-Designate Roos.* Thank you, Mr. President.

*The President.* I appreciate it. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

## Remarks on Senate Confirmation of Sonia M. Sotomayor as a Supreme Court Associate Justice and an Exchange With Reporters August 6, 2009

*The President.* Well, I am pleased and deeply gratified that the Senate has voted to confirm Judge Sonia Sotomayor as our Nation's 111th Supreme Court Justice. I want to thank

the Senate Judiciary Committee, particularly its chairman, Senator Leahy, as well as its ranking member, Senator Sessions, for giving Judge Sotomayor a thorough and civil hearing.