

than before. And because of the caliber of the leaders and businesses represented in this room, because of the ingenuity of our entrepreneurs, because of the drive and skill and talents of our people, I believe, and I know you believe, that our best days are still ahead of us.

So yes, these have been a very difficult 2 years. But the storm is receding, and the skies are brightening, and America is poised to lead the world once again toward new horizons.

You're going to be a part of that process, and I thank you for your leadership.

Thank you. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:07 a.m. at the Park Hyatt Washington hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ronald A. Williams, vice chairman, James W. Owens, chairman, and Angela F. Braly, member, the Business Council; and Faisal Shahzad, suspect in the May 1 attempted terrorist attack in Times Square.

Statement on the Flooding in the Southeast *May 4, 2010*

Our thoughts and prayers are with every American who has been impacted by the severe weather and flooding in the Southeast, and our deepest condolences go out to those who have lost loved ones. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the local first-responders who have been working tirelessly to save lives and protect property in the face of these devastating storms. I have spoken with the Governors in the most

severely impacted States, and yesterday I dispatched FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate to Tennessee to view the flood damage firsthand and to report back on any unmet needs. Federal officials have been dispatched to the region, and we will continue working in close coordination with State and local officials to support response and recovery efforts.

Statement on Indonesia's Decision to Initiate the Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty *May 4, 2010*

I welcome Indonesia's important announcement at the opening session of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference that they are "initiating the process of the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty." The United States thanks President Yudhoyono and the Government of Indonesia for its responsible leadership in the global effort to reinforce the nuclear nonproliferation regime. This is another signal that nations are joining a renewed effort to reinforce global nonproliferation, which advances the vision I outlined in Prague in 2009 and advances the security of the United States, Indonesia, and the

world. Reinforcing the norm against nuclear testing will help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and support our efforts to pursue the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.

The United States is committed to the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and to its early entry into force, and we will work with the United States Senate to help achieve advice and consent to this important international agreement. The United States stands ready to work with all states and encourages them to ratify the treaty and to help bring it into force.