

would be condemned by the international community. We strongly urge the leaders of the sides to prepare their populations for peace, not war.

As a result of efforts by the parties and the Co-Chair countries at all levels, significant progress has been made. The latest version of the Basic Principles, as discussed in Sochi on March 5, lays a just and balanced foundation for the drafting of a comprehensive peace settlement. This document, based on the Helsinki Final Act and elements outlined in our joint declarations in L'Aquila in July 2009 and Muskoka in June 2010, provides a way for all sides to move beyond the unacceptable status quo.

We therefore call upon the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to demonstrate their

political will by finalizing the Basic Principles during their upcoming summit in June. Further delay would only call into question the commitment of the sides to reach an agreement. Once an agreement has been reached, we stand ready to witness the formal acceptance of these Principles, to assist in the drafting of the peace agreement, and then to support its implementation with our international partners.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Serzh Sargsian of Armenia; and President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on the Arrest of Ratko Mladic *May 26, 2011*

Fifteen years ago, Ratko Mladic ordered the systematic execution of some 8,000 unarmed men and boys in Srebrenica. Today he is behind bars. I applaud President Tadic and the Government of Serbia on their determined efforts to ensure that Mladic was found and that he faces justice. We look forward to his expeditious transfer to The Hague.

Today is an important day for the families of Mladic's many victims, for Serbia, for Bosnia, for the United States, and for international justice. While we will never be able to bring back those who were murdered, Mladic will now have to answer to his victims and the world in a court of law. From Nuremberg to the present, the United States has long viewed justice for

war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide as both a moral imperative and an essential element of stability and peace. In Bosnia, the United States—our troops and our diplomats—led the international effort to end ethnic cleansing and bring a lasting peace. On this important day, we recommit ourselves to supporting ongoing reconciliation efforts in the Balkans and to working to prevent future atrocities. Those who have committed crimes against humanity and genocide will not escape judgment.

May the families of Mladic's victims find some solace in today's arrest, and may this deepen the ties among the people of the region.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Naoto Kan of Japan in Deauville, France *May 26, 2011*

President Obama. I just want to very briefly say how glad I am to have an opportunity to discuss important issues with Prime Minister Kan once again. As I've said so often, we have one of the strongest alliances that has made

both the United States and Japan safer and more prosperous for half a century now.

And obviously, all of us were heartbroken by the extraordinary devastation that took place recently as a consequence of the tsunami and

the earthquake and the nuclear crisis in Japan. I repeatedly expressed to Prime Minister Kan that the U.S. will stand by Japan for as long as it takes to help recover. And we are confident that Japan will emerge from these difficult times stronger than ever.

In the meantime, we're going to continue to work together on a whole range of international and bilateral issues. Japan has been a huge contributor to our efforts to deal with Afghanistan, to increase development there. They have been a strong supporter and contributor to Pakistan and its efforts to improve government services in that country and development in that country.

We've worked together on issues like Iran sanctions. We've worked together on a range of international development opportunities. And obviously, we continue to work together very closely in terms of security in East Asia, whether that's issues of how North Korea operates and making sure that they actually implement a denuclearization process or thinking about the long-term security structures in East Asia.

We've also had the opportunity to work together closely on trade issues, and we're both committed to making sure we're continually expanding opportunities for trade and commerce in the Asia-Pacific region.

So we have no better friend than the Japanese people. We are deeply respectful of the outstanding leadership that Prime Minister Kan has provided during a time of great crisis in his country. And we want to emphasize to the Japanese people that we will be with them throughout the rebuilding process and are very confident that Japan will continue its role as a global leader.

[At this point, President Obama's remarks were translated into Japanese by an interpreter.]

President Obama. Let me apologize to the translator for not breaking that up into its component parts. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Kan. This is the first opportunity to meet President Obama after the earthquake disaster, and I would like to reiterate my sincere gratitude for the United States and its

support. And right after the disaster of the earthquake, we received a call from President, and since then, we have three times had a telephone conversation. Right after the disaster, the United States sent an aircraft carrier, the *Ronald Reagan*, for its activity—the U.S. and Japan's activity under Operation Tomodachi.

And as for the nuclear reactor accident, the United States provided us with the human resources and experts and also the equipment without hesitation. And through this series of actions shown by the United States, and particularly President Obama, Japan—we are—we fully and deeply recognize the depth of the *kizuna*, or the bonds of friendship, between Japan and the United States. And Japanese people are deeply grateful for what the United States has done.

As to the assistance provided from the United States, I will—Japan will definitely recover and reconstruct itself so that we will be participating, together with the United States, in various agenda in the global fora, and we would like to further increase our capability to do so, and I'm sure that we can do that.

Even since before the earthquake and the disaster, we have been working on the rebirth of Japanese economy and fiscal conservation and reform in Japan's social security and those various challenges. And the work on those agenda came to a halt right after the earthquake. But along with our efforts on reconstruction from the disaster, we will be working on those challenges which have been pointed out even since before the earthquake. And we are—[inaudible].

Japan has been planning its policy of the third opening of Japan after the first Meiji Restoration and the era right after the Pacific war. And the third opening was to open this country again to the world by proactively working on its economic and trade liberalization and deepening its ties with the world. And we will be working hard again on these issues.

And in our efforts to liberalize this trade liberalization, there is this issue of TPP, and our original intention was to make a decision whether we—on the negotiations of the TP—our stance on the negotiations on the

TPP in June. And that has been our policy, but there has been a delay in the schedule because of the disaster. But I would like to make the policy in the near future—not so late in the near future.

And we are fully aware of the various issues in the world such as the Middle East and North Africa and Iran and Syria and Afghanistan and Pakistan. And Japan will continue to pursue our efforts in those areas, including in our assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan. And where we can, we will provide assistance and work—we would like to work together with the United States on these issues.

And of course, we will be working together on the issue—the situation in East Asia, which deeply relates to the security of Japan. And we have the issue of North Korea and its nuclear development, and how to stop their nuclear

development is an issue, is a challenge. And also we have this issue of abduction by North Korea, and we are—we will continue to pursue its resolution with the assistance of the United States. And we will also work to ensure the denuclearization of North Korea.

In any case, we will first work on the reconstruction of the Japanese economy so that it will be revitalized again and enable us to make efforts on these issues in a proactive manner. And we have been receiving a lot of assistance from the United States, and we will continue to ask for your cooperation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:12 p.m. at the Royal Barriere hotel. Prime Minister Kan spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Nicolas Sarkozy of France in Deauville

May 27, 2011

President Sarkozy. Ladies and gentlemen, we've just had a bilateral with the President of the United States, Barack Obama. And there's been major convergence of views on major international issues.

And I told President Obama how much—how sensitive we were to his words in his speech on the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. It was clear-sighted and bold, what he had to say on the subject.

We completely agreed with—amongst ourselves on what lessons we draw from the Arab revolutions, the Arab Springs; likewise, on Libya, where we have the same analysis. Mr. Qadhafi must leave, and Libyans are entitled to a democratic future.

And I also wish to thank President Obama for his contribution to the smooth running of this G-8 meeting and his involvement to ensure that this multilateral world of ours is run smoothly.

All of France is happy to welcome you, sir, and in particular, the people of Normandy that have certainly not forgotten all that they and

we owe the Americans. For all of us French men and women, and particularly for the people of Normandy, when the President of the United States is standing on this ground, it is particularly significant, because, sadly, there are many young Americans who gave their lives for us, who rest on Normandy soil. And I think it's very important to send this message back with you home. As time passes, we have not forgotten the sacrifices you made.

So it's always very special when the President of the United States comes to this particular part of France.

President Obama. Well, it is wonderful to be back in Normandy. The last time I was here was at the invitation of the President as we were commemorating the landing at Normandy.

I want to thank President Sarkozy, I want to thank the people of Deauville and the people of France for the terrific hospitality that they've shown us over these last few days. And I want to thank President Sarkozy for the leadership that he's shown on the world stage over the last several years.