

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.

France is our oldest ally and continues to be one of our closest allies. And as President Sarkozy indicated, we had an enormous convergence of approaches and views on the challenges that we face around the world. We agreed that the changes that are taking place in the Middle East and North Africa make the pursuit of peace between Israelis and Palestinians more urgent, not less. And we agreed to coordinate closely in encouraging the parties to sit down around the negotiating table and to resolve this issue in a way that creates a Palestinian state that is sovereign and an Israeli state that is secure, the two states living side by side in peace.

We agreed that we have made progress on our Libya campaign, but that meeting the U.N. mandate of civilian protection cannot be accomplished when Qadhafi remains in Libya directing his forces in acts of aggression against the Libyan people. And we are joined in resolve to finish the job.

We discussed the enormous opportunities as well as challenges that are presented by the Arab Spring, and shortly, we'll be discussing in depth how we can fully support countries like Egypt and Tunisia, not only as they transition

to democracy, but also ensuring that that democratic transition is accompanied by economic growth, which can provide more opportunities for all the people, particularly the young people, in the region.

And we also discussed a wide range of issues, from Afghanistan to Iran to the world economy, in which the interests of the United States and the interests of France are closely joined.

So the state of our alliance is strong. I am grateful for the leadership that President Sarkozy has shown. And I very much appreciate the productive way in which he's organized the G-8. I'm confident that as a consequence, we'll be able to continue to make progress in the coming months on the issues that matter most to the French people and to the American people.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. at the Royal Barriere hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya. President Sarkozy spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## **Statement on the Situation in Belarus** *May 27, 2011*

I strongly condemn the conviction and sentencing of opposition Presidential candidates Vladimir Neklyayev, Andrei Sannikov, Vital Rymasheuski, Nikolai Statkevich, and Dmitry Uss in Belarus. The United States considers these candidates and the other courageous activists and candidates arrested and charged in conjunction with the crackdown on December 19 as political prisoners. In a major step backward for democracy in Belarus, their trials were clearly politically motivated and failed to meet even the most minimal standards required of a fair and independent judiciary. We welcome the broad international consensus condemning the actions of President Aleksandr Lukashenko and the Government of Belarus in this matter.

Consistent with our values and principles, the U.S. Government will pursue new sanc-

tions against select Belarusian state-owned enterprises, in addition to the sanctions, travel restrictions, and asset freezes announced on January 31. These measures are targeted against those responsible for the repression, particularly President Lukashenko, and are not directed against the people of Belarus. We are coordinating with other concerned governments to ensure that, through the implementation of a flexible international sanctions regime, we hold accountable those Belarusian officials responsible for these repressive actions. We have also increased our assistance in support of democratic reform in Belarus. We join the European Union and our other allies and partners in supporting the aspirations of the people of Belarus for a modern, democratic, and prosperous society within Europe.