

been most blessed by this Nation, we are ready to give back. But we've got to be asked. And that's what I'm hoping Members of Congress recognize. I don't want a small, cramped vision of what America can be. We want a big and generous vision of what America can be. And the world is inspired when we have that vision.

And by the way, that vision is not a Democratic vision or a Republican idea. These are not ideas that belong to one political party or another. They are the things a rising nation does and the thing that retreating nations don't do. And we are not a retreating nation.

So despite the many challenges we face right now, I believe America must continue to be a rising nation, with rising fortunes. And that makes—that means making sure that everybody is participating and everybody is getting a shot, because when all of our people do well, America does well. And when America does

well, that's good for the rest of the world. That's what President Clinton has always understood.

So, Mr. President, thank you for all the opportunities that you help to create every day. Thank you to all of you who are participating in CGI. You are doing the Lord's work. And I can assure you that you will continue to have a partner in the Obama administration for what I expect to be years to come.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:43 p.m. at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers. In his remarks, he referred to President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea; and Gary C. Kelly, president and chief executive officer, Southwest Airlines Co. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former President William J. Clinton.

## Remarks During a Meeting With Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters in New York City *September 21, 2011*

*President Obama.* Let me welcome Prime Minister Cameron to the United States and New York. Obviously, there is an extraordinarily special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom, and I am very fortunate that over the last year or two, David and I have been able to, I think, establish an excellent friendship as well.

And that's part of what makes the alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom so important, is that it's grounded not only in shared values and broad-based agreement on policy, but it's also based on the individual relationships that we have and the friendships and joint traditions that we have.

We've got a lot to talk about. We have worked closely together to help bring about freedom and peace in Libya. We are coordinating closely in managing a very difficult time for the global economy. We are keenly interested in finding a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On all these issues, I've

always found Prime Minister Cameron to be an outstanding partner.

And so I'm very grateful for his friendship, his hard work, and his dedication and his leadership on the global stage, and I look forward to a very productive discussion today.

David, welcome.

*Prime Minister Cameron.* Thank you. If I may say, thank you, Barack, for that warm welcome. It's great to be back in America, great to be back in New York, and particularly on this 10th anniversary of 9/11, a reminder of how our countries always work together in defeating terror and trying to make our world a safer place.

As you say, we worked very closely together on Libya, and I think we're getting to a good conclusion there, with a real chance of freedom and democracy for those people. We're working closely together on Afghanistan; also the Middle East peace process, where we're desperate to get that moving again. And I'm looking forward to discussions on the world economy, which we

will follow up in Cannes at the G-20, where we've got to get the world economy moving.

So these are very important times. I think the relationship is as strong as it's ever been, and it's been a pleasure working with you these last 16 months.

*President Obama.* Excellent. Thank you very much, everybody.

*Iranian Government's Release of Detained U.S. Citizens Shane Bauer and Joshua Fattal*

*Q.* Can you give us your reaction to the hikers being released?

*President Obama.* We are thrilled that the hikers were released, and we are thrilled for the families. It was the right thing to do. They shouldn't have been held in the first place, but we're glad they're now home.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:55 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Nicolas Sarkozy of France in New York City September 21, 2011

*President Obama.* Well, I want to welcome President Sarkozy to New York City and to the United States. On the anniversary of September 11, President Sarkozy gave a speech at our Embassy in Paris, and he reminded the people of France, but also the world, of the extraordinary friendship that had developed, in part, because of the great sacrifices that our men and women in uniform have made over the decades to preserve freedom and democracy. And so not only am I grateful for the expression of deep friendship that President Sarkozy expressed, but I want to affirm the mutuality of feeling that we have towards the French people.

Do we have an interpreter?

[At this point, an interpreter translated President Obama's previous remarks into French and began a running translation.]

That partnership's been evidenced by the extraordinary work that we've done together in Libya. And I want to thank President Sarkozy for his leadership, as a coalition helped the Libyan people achieve the kind of freedom and opportunity that they're looking for. That partnership is evidenced in the work we did together in Cote d'Ivoire to ensure that the rightfully elected leader of that country was put in place. And our partnership and our mutual leadership will be required to deal with a range of internation-

al issues that have been discussed here at the United Nations and are going to be critical in the months and years to come, including trying to find a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but also trying to find a coordinated world strategy, global strategy, to deal with a economy that is still far too fragile.

And of course, we still have the joint project to bring stability and transition to Afghan governance. And we are extraordinarily grateful for the sacrifices that the men and women in uniform from France have made in that effort.

On a personal note, I consider Nicolas a friend as well as a colleague. Thank you for your leadership. Welcome. And I look forward to a very productive discussion.

[President Sarkozy spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.]

*President Sarkozy.* I should like to say just how delighted we are to be here in the United States, in New York, alongside Barack Obama.

Now, for we, the people of France, I must say, it's actually easy to work with Barack Obama. Whatever the crises we've had to face together, whatever the initiatives we have taken jointly, on every single occasion we have found a listening, openminded attitude on the part of our friend, Barack Obama. In particular, when tackling the crisis, which is still upon