

us today, the leadership that President Obama has shown, and showed at the time, have been of a special value to us all.

There is still much to do, in particular in paving the way to the G-20 summit in Cannes. This is our priority; our number-one priority—let me make this very clear—is to find the path to growth worldwide.

Lastly, I wish to say to what extent I am sensitive to the boldness, the courage, the intelligence, and the sensitivity of President Obama, my friend. I liked him before his election, I liked him once he was elected, and I especially appreciate him now, when the tough times are upon us.

And there's one thing I want to say, perhaps on a more personal note, and that I really mean from the bottom of my heart. When things are as tough as they are right now, when the going

gets as tough as it is right now, it is especially precious and important to be able to speak to what is the world's number-one power, but to someone who listens, someone who is sensitive to others, someone who is respectful and aware of other people's red lines and prepared to take them into account, especially at a time when, as I said, we are facing fresh difficulties, and we really need, together, to go forward.

*[Following the translation of his remarks, President Sarkozy spoke in English.]*

*President Sarkozy.* She speaks like me.  
*[Laughter]*

*President Obama.* Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:53 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

## Statement on Armenian National Day *September 21, 2011*

On behalf of the American people, I want to extend my best wishes to all those who are celebrating Armenian National Day in Armenia, in the United States, and around the world. This 20th anniversary of independence and Armenia's achievements during this time show the

progress that is possible when people are free to determine their own destiny. Here in the United States, we are grateful for the Armenian Americans who enrich our national life every day and who help sustain the strong and growing relationship between our two countries.

## Statement on the Iranian Government's Release of Shane Bauer and Joshua Fattal *September 21, 2011*

I welcome the release of Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal from detention in Iran and am very pleased that they are being reunited with their loved ones. The tireless advocacy of their families over these 2 years has won my admiration and is now coming to an end with Josh and Shane back in their arms. All Americans join their families and friends

in celebrating their long-awaited return home.

We are deeply grateful to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, the Swiss Government, and to all our partners and allies around the world who have worked steadfastly over the past 2 years to secure the release of Shane and Josh.