

We would like to discuss our participation within Open Government Partnership initiative and, of course, the discussion concerning Center for Civil Nuclear Cooperation, because we do appreciate your strong leadership, your announcement that you'd like to have a vision of a world without nuclear weapons that was announced in Prague.

So thank you for your hospitality.

*President Obama.* Welcome. Thank you so much. Thank you everybody.

*Europe's Economic Stabilization Efforts/U.S. Economy*

*Q.* Mr. President, do you think that the deal in Europe will help prevent another recession?

*President Obama.* There's no doubt that it's progress. And so the key now is to make sure that there's strong follow-up, strong execution

of the plans that have been put forward. But I was very pleased to see that the leaders of Europe recognize that it is both in Europe's interest and the world's interest that the situation is stabilized. And I think they've made significant progress over the last week. And the key now is just to make sure that it drives forward in an effective way.

It will definitely have an impact on us here in the United States. If Europe is weak, if Europe is not growing, as our largest trading partner, that's going to have an impact on our businesses and our ability to create jobs here in the United States.

All right, thanks, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:21 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

## Joint Statement by President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Petr Necas of the Czech Republic October 27, 2011

Building on the long friendship between our two countries, we met today to discuss how to strengthen and deepen our bilateral relationship and to examine how we can increase our cooperation in promoting common ideals and interests. The United States and the Czech Republic are NATO allies and partners in numerous joint endeavors in Europe and around the world. We agreed to further develop our relations in three main areas: security cooperation; economic and commercial ties, including civil nuclear energy cooperation; and cooperation in the promotion of democracy, open government and human rights around the world. Toward that end, we identified the following goals:

- Negotiate and sign a reciprocal defense procurement agreement
- Establish a center for civil nuclear cooperation
- Cooperate in the implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative, which could lead to the establish-

ment of an open government and democracy center in Prague

We discussed other important topics, including the global economic situation and energy security. We confirmed our support for safe and secure nuclear power, and agreed that nuclear power is not only important for ensuring energy security, but also for reaching our goals on reducing carbon emissions. We reviewed our cooperation in eastern Afghanistan, where our troops operate closely together in one of the most challenging areas of the country. We agreed that it will be important to maintain sufficient forces and funding during the transition to ensure that the Afghan National Security Forces are in a position to assume lead security responsibility in 2014.

We also reviewed plans for the upcoming NATO summit in Chicago, where we share the belief that the Atlantic Alliance needs to adapt to meet the security challenges of the 21st century. We agreed that we need to be more efficient in the use of our defense resources.

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Finally, we discussed our cooperation in supporting the transition in the Middle East and North Africa and in promoting democracy, open government and human rights around the world. We agreed that the Czech experience offers a powerful and compelling example to

others struggling to build new democracies of how to conduct a peaceful and inclusive transition to a free and democratic society.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

### Statement on Europe's Economic Stabilization Efforts October 27, 2011

We welcome the important decisions made last night by the European Union, which lay a critical foundation for a comprehensive solution to the euro zone crisis. We look forward to the full development and rapid implementa-

tion of their plan. We will continue to support the EU and our European allies in their efforts to address this crisis as we work together to sustain the global recovery and put our people back to work.

### Statement on the Selection of Prince Nayif bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud as Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia October 28, 2011

I congratulate King Abdallah and the Saudi people on the selection of Prince Nayif bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud as Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Crown Prince Nayif has served his nation with dedication and distinction for more than 35 years as Minister of Interior and as Second Deputy Prime Minister since 2009. We in the

United States know and respect him for his strong commitment to combating terrorism and supporting regional peace and security. The United States looks forward to continuing our close partnership with Crown Prince Nayif in his new capacity, as we strengthen the deep and longstanding friendship between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

### Statement on the United States District Court Approval of the Settlement in the *Pigford II* Class-Action Lawsuit on Discrimination by the Department of Agriculture October 28, 2011

The U.S. District Court's approval of the settlement between the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and plaintiffs in the *Pigford II* class-action lawsuit is another important step forward in addressing an unfortunate chapter in USDA's civil rights history. This agreement will provide overdue relief and

justice to African American farmers and bring us closer to the ideals of freedom and equality that this country was founded on. I especially want to recognize the efforts of Secretary Vilsack and Attorney General Holder, without whom this settlement would not have been reached.