

I must tell you that we had a heavy agenda because there is no lack of subjects for concern. And we need the leadership of Barack Obama. We need the solidarity and the support of the United States of America. We need joint common analysis as to the way we can put the world back on the path of growth and stability.

Together, President Obama and myself are trying to build the unity of the G-20. And I wish to pay tribute to the United States for understanding about all the issues we'll be discussing over the next 48 hours, and in particular, the issue of the Greek crisis—the difficulty that the euro is facing, the need to be hand in glove with the United States on the language of the final communique.

Again, I want to thank President Obama for his understanding on all matters, including that of a levy or a tax on financial transactions, where I think we found common ground, at least common analysis, mainly that the world of

finance must contribute to solving the crisis that we are all facing today.

I also want to say how delighted I am that President Obama has agreed to stay a few hours after the end of the summit in order to participate in ceremonies to pay tribute to American and French troops who have fought together so many times throughout the course of our joint histories. And I'm delighted to be—to have the opportunity to join President Obama in a—on a television interview, because he is much loved and much liked here in France.

So we have a very heavy agenda ahead of us, and we'll have many opportunities to see you again and explain to you what decisions we've been led to take.

President Obama. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 a.m. at the Palais de Festivals et des Congres in the Espace Riviera. President Sarkozy spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in Cannes

November 3, 2011

President Obama. It's wonderful to be back together with my good friend Angela Merkel. I think that the last time we were in Washington, DC, together, we presented her with the Medal of Freedom, and that indicated the high esteem that not only I, but the United States, hold her and her leadership.

This is going to be a very busy 2 days. Central to our discussions at the G-20 is how do we achieve greater global growth and put people back to work. That means we're going to have to resolve the situation here in Europe. And without Angela's leadership, we would not have already made the progress that we've seen at the EU meeting on October 27.

We are now, having seen some progress, looking forward to working together to figure out how we can implement this in an effective way to make sure that not only is the euro zone stable, but the world financial system is stable

as well. And hopefully, during our bilateral meeting, we'll also have the ability to discuss a wide range of other issues, including security issues that are so important to both our countries.

But I just want to say once again how much I enjoy working with Angela. She exhibits the kind of practical common sense that I think has made her a leader not only in Germany, but around the world.

So thank you very much.

Hold on, hold on, hold on—translation. [Laughter] All the Americans reporters speak German, but just in case. [Laughter]

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

Chancellor Merkel. Thank you very much, and let me say that I'm delighted that we have

the opportunity for this meeting here. And mainly, the G-20 will afford us an opportunity, during these 2 days of meeting, not only to talk about European matters, but also about global matters that matter to both of us and that are of common interest.

And let me say again that I very fondly remember the evening in the White House and the award.

Thank you.

President Obama. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. at the InterContinental Carlton Cannes Hotel. Chancellor Merkel spoke in German, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

Statement on Senate Action on Job Growth Legislation *November 3, 2011*

For the third time in recent weeks, every single Republican in the United States Senate has chosen to obstruct a jobs bill that independent economists said would boost our economy and put Americans back to work. At a time when more than a million construction workers are looking for a job, they voted no to putting them back to work doing the work America needs done: rebuilding our roads, bridges, airports, and transit systems. That makes no sense.

It makes no sense when you consider that this bill was made up of the same kinds of commonsense proposals that many of these Senators have fought for in the past. It was fully paid for. And even though it was supported by more than 70 percent of the American people—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—100 percent of Senate Republicans

said no. It's more clear than ever that Republicans in Washington are out of touch with Americans from all ends of the political spectrum.

The American people deserve to know why their Republican representatives in Washington refuse to put some of the workers hit hardest by the economic downturn back on the job rebuilding America. They deserve an explanation as to why Republicans refuse to step up to the plate and do what's necessary to create jobs and grow the economy right now. It's time for Republicans in Congress to put country ahead of party and listen to the people they were elected to serve. It's time for them to do their job and focus on Americans' jobs. And until they do, I will continue to do everything in my power to move this country forward.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner of Argentina in Cannes *November 4, 2011*

President Obama. Well, it is wonderful to be joined by the President of Argentina, a great friend of not only mine, but the United States. We've spent a lot of time together at the G-20, and I have very much appreciated the engagement and the passion that President Kirchner has brought to the important global issues that we've been discussing.

Obviously, there are a lot of bonds between Argentina and the United States that date back many years, and this is an excellent opportunity

for us to build on that history. We have a wide range of areas of common interest and common concern. We'll be discussing the possibilities of deeper cooperation on economics, on trade, on science, on technology, and on security issues. And we'll also have a chance to discuss the upcoming Summit of the Americas in Colombia, and how we can set an agenda that focuses on increasing prosperity and employment and opportunity for people throughout the Americas.