

our two countries, but that obviously has broader implications for U.S. presence in the Pacific.

When we get to Bali for the ASEAN meeting and the East Asia summit, we're going to be speaking, again, about how can we, a great Pacific power, work with our partners to ensure stability, to ensure free flows of commerce, to ensure that maritime rules, drilling, a whole host of issues are managed in a open and fair way.

And one of the things that I'm very encouraged about is the eagerness of countries to see the U.S. reengaged in this region. I think back here in the United States, there are times where we question our influence around the world. And obviously, having gone through a couple of tough years, having been engaged in a decade of war, we recognize all the challenges that are out there for the United States and the reforms and changes that we're going to have to make to ensure that we are competitive in this 21st century global economy.

But the news I have to deliver for the American people is American leadership is still welcome. It's welcomed in this region. It's welcomed in the transatlantic region. And the reason it's welcomed I think is because we have shown that we are willing to not just look after

our own interests, but try to set up a set of rules and norms in the international arena that everybody can follow and everybody can prosper from. And people appreciate that.

And so I am very proud of the leadership that America obviously has shown in the past. But I also don't want people to underestimate the leadership that we're showing now, whether it's on trade agreements like TPP or the security issues that face the Pacific. We are, I think, poised to work in a spirit of mutual interest and mutual respect with countries around the world, but we continue to be a country that people are looking to for active engagement.

Mr. McNerney. All very welcomed news. Mr. President, thank you very much. Your perspectives were very much appreciated.

The President. Thank you very much. Enjoy the good weather.

Mr. McNerney. Yes. *Mahalo.*

The President. *Mahalo.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. at the Sheraton Waikiki hotel. In his remarks, he referred to S. 1487, which was approved November 12 and assigned Public Law No. 112-54.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda of Japan in Honolulu

November 12, 2011

President Obama. Well, I just want to welcome Prime Minister Noda to Hawaii, to the United States, for this APEC meeting. I had the opportunity to have my first extensive discussions with the Prime Minister recently, and I have been extremely impressed already with the boldness of his vision. And we confirmed, once again, the importance for both of our countries—the alliance between the United States and Japan has been a cornerstone of our relationship, but also for security in the Asia-Pacific region for a very long time. And I'm confident that working together we can continue to build on that relationship in the areas of

commerce, in the areas of security, in not only the Asia-Pacific region, but around the world.

And, Prime Minister Noda, welcome to Honolulu. I'm sure that we'll have another round of productive discussions. And I want to thank you and the people of Japan for your friendship. We continue also, by the way, to be concerned about the rebuilding process in the wake of the terrible earthquake and tsunami. And I want to assure you that the American people continue to stand beside you and ready to help in any way they can.

Prime Minister Noda. Well, this is my first visit to Honolulu after 34 years. And this very morning I went to the Memorial Cemetery of

the Pacific and laid a wreath there, and I got to see the panoramic view of Honolulu. And I renewed my recognition of how beautiful and great this city is. And I would like to express my deep appreciation for hosting us in—here in Honolulu as the chair of APEC.

I'm very much encouraged by the fact that America is increasing its presence in the Asia-Pacific region, and I do believe that Japan and the United States must work closely together

to establish economic goals and also establish security order in this region. And I hope that in the meeting today I can discuss with you these issues.

President Obama. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at the Hale Koa Hotel. Prime Minister Noda spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia in Honolulu November 12, 2011

President Obama. I want to welcome my friend Dmitry Medvedev to my birthplace, Honolulu, Hawaii. My understanding is that he's been spotted in a Hawaiian shirt walking and enjoying the good weather. And so I don't know if anybody got pictures of this, but I'm glad that he's enjoying himself so far.

President Medvedev and I have I think successfully established the reset of U.S.-Russia relationships—the U.S.-Russian relationship over the last several years. And it has borne concrete fruit in the form of a New START Treaty, a 123 Agreement, the work that we did together imposing sanctions on Iran, and most recently, the efforts that we've made on Russia's WTO accession.

Today we had a wide-ranging discussion. It focused on a number of security issues where the U.S. and Russia have a significant interest. We discussed Afghanistan and our plan to transition and the importance of all the regional parties assisting the Afghan Government in stabilizing the country for the benefit of the Afghan people.

We discussed Iran and reaffirmed our intention to work to shape a common response so that we can move Iran to follow its international obligations when it comes to its nuclear program.

We discussed a number of world trouble spots, including Syria. And we discussed the importance of APEC and our common interest in assuring global growth and increased opportunity, business investment, commercial ties,

and most importantly, job creation in both our countries.

Although it's not official yet, the invitation has been extended to Russia to join the WTO, as a testament to the hard work of President Medvedev and his team. We believe this is going to be good for the United States, for the world, as well as for Russia, because it will provide increased opportunities for markets in which we can sell goods and products and services, as well as purchase good, products, and services, without some of the traditional barriers.

And so we very much appreciate the cooperation and partnership that we forged around this issue. We think it's an example of the importance that both countries place on economic reform and economic growth.

And on my part and on my administration's part, this is going to be a good time for us to consult closely with Congress about ending the application of Jackson-Vanik to Russia, so that the U.S. businesses can take advantage of Russia's membership in the WTO, and we can expand commerce and create jobs here in the United States. So those consultations will be taking place in the weeks and months to come.

So, President Medvedev, thank you again for a constructive conversation, but more importantly, thank you for several years of constructive engagement with the United States.

President Medvedev. Aloha. [*Laughter*]

Well, I would like to start by thanking Barack for this brilliant idea of hosting the