

some of its approaches to trade, just as every other country that's been involved in the consultations for the TPP have had to think through, all right, what kinds of adjustments are we willing to make?

And so that's the consistent theme here. This is a growing region. It is a vital region. The United States is going to be a huge participant in both economic and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region, and our overriding desire is that we have a clear set of principles that all of us can abide by so that all of us can succeed. And I think it's going to be important for China to be a part of that. I think that's good for us.

But it's going to require China, just like all the rest of us, to align our existing policies and what we've done in the past with what's needed for a brighter future. All right?

Prime Minister Gillard. Thank you very much.

President Obama. Thank you very much, everybody.

Prime Minister Gillard. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 6:10 p.m. at Parliament House. In his remarks, he referred to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France; and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany.

Remarks Following a Dinner With Members of Parliament in Canberra November 16, 2011

Well, Prime Minister Gillard and Leader Abbott, thank you both for your wonderfully warm words. And I thank you for showing that in Canberra, as in Washington, people may not always see eye to eye, but on this we are all united: There are no better friends than the United States and Australia.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, and distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am going to be brief, for we have had a busy day. I am not sure what day it is. *[Laughter]* And I'm going to subject you to a very long speech tomorrow.

But I do want to express my deep appreciation for the way you've welcomed me here today. I know that I am not the first guy from Chicago to come to these parts. A century ago, Walter Burley Griffin came here with a vision for this city. He said, "I have planned a city that is not like any other in the world." And tonight I want to thank all of you and the people of Australia for the hospitality that is unlike any other in the world.

Our toasts earlier tonight reminded me of a story. It's from our troops—this is true story—our troops serving together in Afghanistan. Our guys, the Americans, couldn't figure out why your guys were always talking about cheese, all day long, morning, noon, and night. Why are the Aussies always talking about

cheese? And then finally, they realized, it was their Australian friends just saying hello, just saying cheers. *[Laughter]*

So we Americans and Australians, we may not always speak the same way or use the same words, but I think it's pretty clear, especially from the spirit of this visit and our time together this evening, that we understand each other. And we see the world in the same way, even if we do have to disagree on the merits of vegemite. *[Laughter]*

As many of you know, I first came to Australia as a child. But despite my visits, I have to admit I never did learn to talk "Strine." I know there is some concern here that your Australian language is being Americanized. So perhaps it's time for us to reverse the trend. Tonight, with your permission, I'd like to give it a burl. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank the Prime Minister for a very productive meeting that we had today. I think she'll agree it was a real chinwag. *[Laughter]* When Julia and I meet, we listen to each other, we learn from each other. It's not just a lot of earbashing. *[Laughter]* That's a good one—earbashing. *[Laughter]* I can use that in Washington, because there's a lot of earbashing sometimes. *[Laughter]*

That's been the story of our two nations. Through a century of progress and struggle, we

have stood together, in good times and in bad. We've faced our share of sticky wickets. [Laughter] In some of our darkest moments—when our countries have been threatened, when we needed a friend to count on—we've always been there for each other: at Darwin, at Midway, after 9/11, and after Bali.

It's that moment, in the midst of battle, when the bullets are flying and the outcome is uncertain, when Americans and Aussies look over at each other, knowing that we've got each other's backs, knowing in our hearts, "No worries, she'll be right." [Laughter]

And so tonight, as we mark 60 years of this remarkable alliance, through war and peace, hardship and prosperity, we gather together

among so many friends who sustain the bonds between us, and we can say with confidence and with pride: The alliance between the United States and Australia is deeper and stronger than it has ever been, spot on—[laughter]—cracker jack—[laughter]—in top nick. [Laughter]

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:09 p.m. at Parliament House. In his remarks, he referred to Leader of the Opposition Anthony J. Abbott, Speaker of the House of Representatives Henry A. Jenkins, and President of the Senate John J. Hogg of Australia.

Remarks to the Parliament in Canberra November 17, 2011

Prime Minister Gillard, Leader Abbott, thank you both for your very warm welcome. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Members of the House and Senate, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the honor of standing in this great chamber to reaffirm the bonds between the United States and the Commonwealth of Australia, two of the world's oldest democracies and two of the world's oldest friends.

To you and the people of Australia, thank you for your extraordinary hospitality. And here, in this city, this ancient meeting place, I want to acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land and one of the world's oldest continuous cultures, the first Australians.

I first came to Australia as a child, traveling between my birthplace of Hawaii and Indonesia, where I would live for 4 years. As an 8-year-old, I couldn't always understand your foreign language. [Laughter] Last night I did try to talk some "Strine." [Laughter] Today I don't want to subject you to any earbashing. I really do love that one, and I will be introducing that into the vernacular in Washington. [Laughter]

But to a young American boy, Australia and its people—your optimism, your easygoing ways, your irreverent sense of humor—all felt so familiar. It felt like home. I've always want-

ed to return. I tried last year twice. But this is a lucky country, and today I feel lucky to be here as we mark the 60th anniversary of our unbreakable alliance.

The bonds between us run deep. In each other's story we see so much of ourselves: ancestors who crossed vast oceans, some by choice, some in chains; settlers who pushed west across sweeping plains; dreamers who toiled with hearts and hands to lay railroads and to build cities; generations of immigrants who with each new arrival add a new thread to the brilliant tapestry of our nations; and we are citizens who live by a common creed—no matter who you are, no matter what you look like, everyone deserves a fair chance, everyone deserves a fair go.

Of course, progress in our society has not always come without tensions or struggles to overcome a painful past. But we are countries with a willingness to face our imperfections and to keep reaching for our ideals. That's the spirit we saw in this chamber 3 years ago, as this nation inspired the world with a historic gesture of reconciliation with Indigenous Australians. It's the spirit of progress, in America, which allows me to stand before you today as President of the United States. And it's the spirit I'll see later today when I become the