

turbulent times of ours, to really further strengthen the relationships.

So thank you so much.

President Obama. Thank you.

Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. at the Grand Hyatt Bali hotel.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Mohamed Najib bin Abdul Razak of Malaysia in Bali November 18, 2011

President Obama. Well, I just want to say how much of a pleasure it is to be able to see once again Prime Minister Najib. We just had excellent conversations and consultations at the APEC conference that we hosted in Honolulu. This allows us to expand discussions not only on our bilateral relationship, which is strong, and the cooperation that we've seen on issues like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but it also allows us to discuss how we can best use the East Asia Summit to assure shared prosperity and shared security across the region.

And so I appreciate the extraordinary cooperation that we've received on a whole range of issues. We want to be a strong partner with Malaysia, and Prime Minister Najib, I think, has shown great leadership not only in continuing to boost Malaysia's economy, but also in showing leadership on a wide range of multi-lateral fora.

So thank you very much, Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Najib. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your very encouraging words. We believe we have a very, very productive relationship between our two countries. Before this, they've been very strong in the areas of trade and investment.

The United States is our fourth largest trading partner. On a cumulative basis, you're still the largest investor in Malaysia. We certainly look forward to expanding trade and investment linkages. And with the TPP, hopefully, we can meet the deadline next year. We see great prospects in terms of enhancing trade investment between our two countries. And certainly, we look forward to working in other areas as well.

We are very committed to ensuring peace and stability. We're working with you in the area of nuclear nonproliferation. We're doing our part to make sure that Malaysia is not a transit point for illicit goods that can be used for nuclear proliferation, working towards helping you in Afghanistan. And we're looking at new areas of cooperation, including receiving 50 English teachers from United States. They are coming in January.

So I'm excited about the prospects, and I look forward to deepening, strengthening, and enhancing our bilateral ties. And I thank you for your leadership in this.

President Obama. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:04 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Bali hotel.

Remarks on Burma From Bali November 18, 2011

Good afternoon, everybody. Throughout my administration and throughout this trip, I've underscored America's commitment to the Asia-Pacific region, but also I've underscored America's commitment to the future of human rights in the region. Today I'm announcing an

important step forward in our efforts to move forward on both these fronts.

For decades, Americans have been deeply concerned about the denial of basic human rights for the Burmese people. The persecution of democratic reformers, the brutality

shown towards ethnic minorities, and the concentration of power in the hands of a few military leaders has challenged our conscience and isolated Burma from the United States and much of the world.

However, we have always had a profound respect for the people of Burma and the promise of their country, a country with a rich history, at the crossroads of East and West; a people with a quiet dignity and extraordinary potential. For many years, both the promise and the persecution of the Burmese people has been symbolized by Aung San Suu Kyi. As the daughter of Burma's founding father and a fierce advocate for her fellow citizens, she's endured prison and house arrest, just as so many Burmese have endured repression.

Yet after years of darkness, we've seen flickers of progress in these last several weeks. President Thein Sein and the Burmese Parliament have taken important steps on the path toward reform. A dialogue between the Government and Aung San Suu Kyi has begun. The Government has released some political prisoners, media restrictions have been relaxed, and legislation has been approved that could open the political environment. So taken together, these are the most important steps toward reform in Burma that we've seen in years.

Of course, there's far more to be done. We remain concerned about Burma's closed political system, its treatment of minorities and holding of political prisoners, and its relationship with North Korea. But we want to seize what could be a historic opportunity for progress and make it clear that if Burma continues to travel down the road of democratic reform, it can forge a new relationship with the United States of America.

Last night I spoke to Aung San Suu Kyi directly and confirmed that she supports American engagement to move this process forward. So today I've asked Secretary Hillary Clinton to go to Burma. She will be the first American Secretary of State to travel to the country in over half a century, and she will explore whether the United States can empower a positive transition in Burma and begin a new chapter between our countries.

That possibility will depend upon the Burmese Government taking more concrete action. If Burma fails to move down the path of reform, it will continue to face sanctions and isolation. But if it seizes this moment, then reconciliation can prevail and millions of people may get the chance to live with a greater measure of freedom, prosperity, and dignity. And that possibility is too important to ignore.

Later today I'll reinforce these messages in America's meeting with ASEAN, including with President Thein Sein. Meanwhile, when she travels to Nay Pyi Taw and Rangoon, Hillary will have the chance to deliver that message to the Government, to civil society, and to democratic activists like Aung San Suu Kyi.

Again, there's more that needs to be done to pursue the future that the Burmese people deserve, a future of reconciliation and renewal. But today we've decided to take this step to respond to the positive developments in Burma and to clearly demonstrate America's commitment to the future of an extraordinary country, a courageous people, and universal values.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:42 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Bali hotel. In his remarks, he referred to National League for Democracy in Burma Leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia in Bali

November 18, 2011

President Obama. Selamat malam. Terima kasih, President Yudhoyono. Thank you so much for welcoming us here today. Thank you

for your tremendous leadership and that of Indonesia as you host both ASEAN and the East Asia Summit. And this speaks to your commit-