

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-

ment to the region, as well as Indonesia's role as an important leader.

Let me say the obvious: It is wonderful to be back in Bali. This is the first time I've been here in 18 years. I have to say, 18 years ago, this entire development did not exist. So it's a sign of the remarkable development that has taken place here. It is always a pleasure to be here and to have the opportunity to exchange views with my friend President Yudhoyono.

I'm pleased to be here as the first U.S. President to attend the East Asia Summit. This is another example of how the United States is refocusing on the Asia-Pacific and engaging more deeply in regional organizations so we can meet our common challenges together.

Our meeting just now focused on the growing relationship between our two nations. When I was here last year, we agreed to forge a comprehensive partnership across a whole range of areas, and today we reviewed the progress that we're making.

On the economic front, we welcome the completion of a deal that I witnessed this morning, the decision of Indonesia's Lion Air to purchase up to 230 Boeing aircraft, worth at least \$20 billion and possibly much, much more. This is one of the largest commercial transactions ever between our two countries, and it's a sign of just how much potential our relationship has.

Today we're also signing, as President Yudhoyono mentioned, a Millennium Challenge Corporation compact that will provide \$600 million to support environmentally sustainable

economic development, public health, and improved public services in Indonesia.

With regard to security, we agreed to a number of steps that will expand our cooperation, including training and support to help the Indonesian military as it modernizes. And I'd note that this kind of defense cooperation not only helps build Indonesia's capacity to ensure its own security, it helps Indonesia play an active role in promoting security in the region.

Finally, I conveyed to President Yudhoyono our appreciation of Indonesia's regional leadership, which has helped us to achieve real progress on issues like disaster relief, maritime security, and nonproliferation. And I thanked him for Indonesia's efforts to promote democracy and human rights and advance security and peace.

So as I said, I wanted to thank President Yudhoyono for welcoming me back to Indonesia again. I know we're all very grateful for his leadership and for the hospitality of the Indonesian people and the people of Bali as they host these two important summits. And just as we deepen the partnership between our two nations, I am looking forward to the progress that we can make as a region towards greater security and prosperity for all of us.

So, President Yudhoyono, thank you very much.

*President Yudhoyono. Terima kasih.* Thank you.

*President Obama. Terima kasih.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:53 p.m. at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center.

## Joint Statement by President Obama and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia *November 18, 2011*

1. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and President Barack Obama met in Bali on November 18, 2011. The two presidents reaffirmed the deepening engagement between the two countries on regional and global issues since establishing the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership in November 2010.

2. President Obama expressed the United States' admiration for Indonesia's democratic transformation, and the two presidents reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen democracy and human rights in their own societies. President Obama welcomed Indonesia's leadership of the Bali Democracy Forum as part of Indonesia's democracy promotion efforts. President Obama