

shows over the last two centuries that when you bet on America, that bet pays off.

So to all the business leaders here today and around the world: We want to be your partner in helping to write the next chapter in our history. We want you to join the generations of immigrants and entrepreneurs and foreign investors who have discovered exactly what it means when we say we are the land of opportunity. That is not a myth, it's a proven fact.

There are a lot of wonderful countries out there. But this is a place where you can do business, create great products, deliver great services, make money, and do good at the same time. So you should find out why there's no substitute for those proud words: Made in America. And here's three more words: Select the U.S.A. When you do, you'll find some of

the world's best workers, some of the world's most innovative entrepreneurs. You'll find a government and a President who is committed to helping you create more good jobs for the middle class and helping you succeed well into the 21st century.

We are open for business, and we're looking forward to partnering with all of you in the months and years ahead.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Vinai K. Thummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA initiative at the International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq and an Exchange With Reporters *November 1, 2013*

President Obama. Well, I want to welcome back Prime Minister Maliki to the White House. It's been 2 years since the last U.S. troops left from Iraq, but the strategic partnership between our two countries remains very strong.

We honor the lives that were lost, both American and Iraqi, to bring about a functioning democracy in a country that previously had been ruled by a vicious dictator. And we appreciate Prime Minister Maliki's commitment to honoring that sacrifice by ensuring a strong, prosperous, inclusive, and democratic Iraq.

We had a wide-ranging discussion about economic issues, regional issues, and security issues. And much of our discussion centered on the fact that, although Iraq's made significant progress in areas like oil production and a range of other reforms that have taken place, unfortunately, Al Qaida has still been active and has grown more active recently. So we had a lot of discussion about how we can work together to push back against that terrorist organization that operates not only in Iraq, but also

poses a threat to the entire region and to the United States.

I emphasized that in addition to continuing counterterrorism support and partnership, that we were encouraged by the work that Prime Minister Maliki has done in the past to ensure that all people inside of Iraq—Sunni, Shia, and Kurd—feel that they have a voice in their government. And one of the most important expressions of that will be elections next year. I encouraged that Iraq pass an election law and that that moves forward so that people understand that when they have differences, they can express them politically, as opposed to through violence.

I also appreciated the efforts that Prime Minister Maliki has made recently to restore stronger relationships with its neighbors, including Kuwait and Turkey and some of the other Gulf States, and expressed my interest in providing whatever support is necessary to make sure that Iraq is working cooperatively and effectively with its neighbors.

We spent considerable amount of time talking about Syria, where the spillover effects of

the chaos and Assad's horrific treatment of his own people has had spillover effects in Iraq as well. And we agreed that it's in the interest of both countries to try to bring about a political settlement, a political transition, inside of Syria that allows the Syrian people to make decisions about their own lives, while at the same time, isolating extremist factions that could end up not only threatening people inside of Syria, but throughout the region as well.

And I shared with the Prime Minister our efforts to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue in a peaceful way, but emphasized to him how important it is that Iran seize this opportunity to take the right path in accordance with previous international norms and resolutions. My hope is, is that we can arrive at a resolution, but I emphasized to the Prime Minister how serious we are about preventing a nuclear arms race in a region that would only add to the dangers that so many people there already face.

Throughout this discussion, the main theme was, is that the United States wants to be a strong and effective partner with Iraq and we are deeply invested in seeing an Iraq that is inclusive, that is democratic, and that is prosperous. And I communicated to the Prime Minister that anything that we can do to help bring about that more hopeful future for Iraq is something that we want to work on.

So, welcome, Mr. Prime Minister. Thank you so much for coming.

Prime Minister Maliki. Thank you very much, Mr. President. In the name of God, the Merciful. Mr. President, you went into the details of all the issues that we discussed, and the dialogue was very good. So we mentioned many, many issues that are of common importance for us, and we agreed on them. It was a very positive, very deep, and very strategic dialogue.

We had an agreement that we signed between Iraq and the United States, as you know, and we have a friendship agreement, and we have a strategic framework agreement. And we need to activate them. And this was one of the main purpose of our visit. We need to enhance our bilateral relations and to enhance these agreements.

We discussed many issues that are very important for Iraq, for the region, and for the whole world. And this clearly tends to show that the strategic framework agreement is of essence for the cooperation between the United States and Iraq for the interests of all.

And in our discussions today, we wanted to take the strategic framework agreement and our bilateral relation, sort of, out from the unilateral security and military assistance that the United States provided to us. We wanted to move to a multilayer relation at the political, economic level. And we—[inaudible]—the United States and the United States company and economy to participate in the rebuilding and developing area.

We had a common vision about all the issues that we discussed when it comes to diagnosing the return of terrorism to the Middle East. And we talked about the way of countering terrorism, and we had similar positions and similar ideas. We discussed the details of our cooperation, but the people who are in charge will discuss further details about this. What we want is for Iraq and the region to be able to work together. And we are working in Iraq at the security level, intelligence level, social level; at all the level, we are mobilizing our people in order to fight Al Qaida, because it's a scourge for Iraq and the Middle East.

And I told the President that we improved our relation and are still working on improving our relation with all the countries in the region. And we are aiming at creating a moderation front in order to fight the sectarian front and the violence and the terrorism. And this is very important. And we, as Iraqis, will act responsibly at all the necessary levels—political, security, and military—to do so.

We do know that the democratic experience in Iraq is nascent and fragile, but it was born very strong. And we need to continue enhancing it and consolidating it, because democracy is very important. We also want to have the mechanism of democracy such as elections, and we want to hold the elections on time—and the Government is committed to do so—alongside with other issues like enhancing the national identity. Democracy needs to be

strong, and we are going to strengthen it because it only will allow us to fight terrorism.

And as the President said, we were in total agreement when it comes to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria, a solution through dialogue. So we are very supportive of Geneva II. We want the Syrian people to have the right to self-determination and to choose its leader. And also, we want a peaceful solution to the Iranian nuclear problem. We do hope to avert nuclear wars in the region, and we also want to avoid chemical—the use of chemical weapons because we and the Syrians suffered a lot from these weapons.

And we will continue with our good relations, bilateral relations, and with the strategic framework agreement. We want them to be strong, and we will continue working on that.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Obama. Thank you, guys.

Shooting at Los Angeles International Airport

Q. Mr. President, anything on the LAX shooting? Any thoughts on the LAX shooting?

The President. Obviously, we've been monitoring, and we're concerned about it. But I'll let the law enforcement folks talk about it directly.

All right? Thank you, everybody. Thank you, guys. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:03 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Bashar al-Asad of Syria. Prime Minister Maliki referred to the proposed Geneva II international conference on the civil war and sectarian conflict in Syria. Prime Minister Maliki spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by President Obama and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq

November 1, 2013

In their meeting today at the White House, President Obama and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the United States and the Republic of Iraq and pledged to advance common interests to support a stable, secure, and prosperous Iraq and Middle East. They also discussed their shared commitment to enhance cooperation under the Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA).

The two leaders noted that it has been nearly two years since the final American troops departed Iraq and the United States and Iraq entered a new phase of their relationship, based on mutual respect and a shared commitment to build a strategic partnership between two sovereign nations. They recalled the thousands of Americans and Iraqis who have given their lives in our common fight against terrorism and extremism in Iraq. The President and Prime Minister renewed their determination to honor the memory and sacrifice of those killed by strengthening our joint long-term

strategic partnership across the fields covered by the SFA, including security, diplomacy, trade, education, energy, culture, science, and justice.

Following the President's meeting with the Prime Minister, Vice President Biden and Prime Minister Maliki convened the Higher Coordination Committee (HCC). This was the fourth meeting of the HCC since it was established in 2008 under the SFA.

Regional Integration

The U.S. and Iraqi delegations discussed Iraq's position as an emerging democracy in the region, leading energy producer, and a nation representing a diversity of social customs, religions, and ethnicities. The Iraqi delegation described the challenges Iraq faces due to its geography and the legacy of the former regime after decades of wars and international isolation. In this regard, both delegations welcomed the full restoration of relations between Iraq and Kuwait, expanding energy, security, and